May 2026

SCWBA NEWS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

May 2026

SCWBA members,

I would like to extend a thank you to everyone involved in our Student Built Home Program for another successful year. The dedication and hard work from the students, instructors, volunteers, sponsors, and committee members continue to make this program something our association can truly be proud of. This achievement reflects the teamwork and support from many individuals and businesses throughout our association who continue to invest in the next generation of skilled professionals. Congratulations as well to all of the student scholarship recipients. Their hard work and commitment to the trades and construction industry are recognized and appreciated, and we wish them continued success. We are also excited to announce that the student-built home is now complete and officially listed for sale.

As we move into summer and what is traditionally one of the busiest times of the year for our industry, I encourage all members to take advantage of the upcoming association events and opportunities. Our annual golf outing continues to be one of the most popular networking events of the year and provides a great opportunity to connect with fellow members, and industry partners. In addition, the Parade of Homes will once again showcase the outstanding craftsmanship, innovation, and professionalism of our local builders and associates. These events not only promote our industry to the community, but also strengthen the relationships that make our association successful.

I also want to thank the many members who have stepped up to become involved in our newly formed committees. There has been a tremendous amount of energy, collaboration, and new ideas being brought forward. These groups have been working hard behind the scenes on upcoming projects, member engagement opportunities, and initiatives designed to continue growing and strengthening our association. We look forward to sharing more details with everyone in the near future.

Thank you again for your continued support of the SCWBA and for everything you do to support the building industry and our local communities. I hope everyone has a safe, productive, and successful summer season ahead.

Sincerely,
Chris Engstrom, Advantage Homes
2026 SCWBA President

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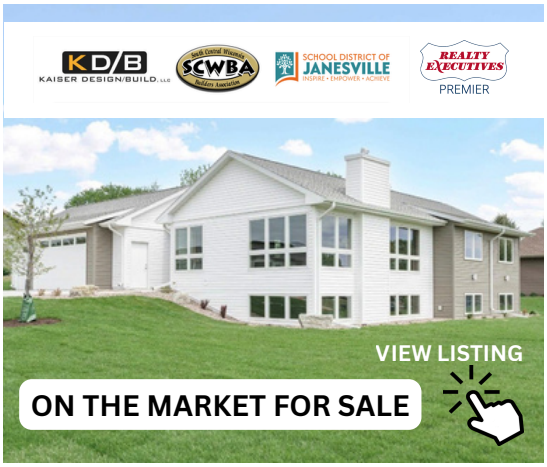
UPCOMING SCWBA EVENTS

Register at: scwba.com

Announcement: 2026 SCWBA Golf Outing will be held at Prairie Woods!

SCWBA STUDENT BUILD OPEN HOUSE



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MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Associated Bank
- Big Radio
- Budget Blinds
- Country Doors
- Dot Design House
- Harris Ace Hardware
- King Design Service
- Tree Wise Men
- Wagner Construction

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

PDL WASTE SOLUTIONS

HAMAKER BUILDING & REMODELING
CERTIFIED CONTRACTOR

Grand appliance and tv

ALL COMMITTEES MEETING UPDATES

📢 Member Events and Engagement: discussed their plans and implementation for intentional conversations to collect member feedback and suggestions, reviewed the success of this year's Comedy Night, highlighted what to expect at our June 18th golf outing and encouraged final registrations asap, and discussed beginning plans for this year's Casino Night.

📢 Education and Industry Advancement: discussed finalizing details of this year's student build, plans and breaking ground dates for next year's build, the re-launch of building pathways for 6th and 7th grade, a builder warranty and subcontractor agreement legal documents workshop, and developing a home buyer's reference guide. SCWBA has awarded $10,000 in academic and direct to workforce scholarships so far in 2026.

📢 Community Events and Impact: discussed Parade of Homes dates/details/marketing, completion of Project 16:49 impact project, the next impact project for House of Mercy, and community/government impact and relationships initiatives and rosters that have been created. Contractors will be asked for feedback to form content for a new podcast which will be launching later this year that blends municipal perspectives, contractor/subcontractor perspectives, and industry advocacy now and in the future.

📢 Young Professionals Council: discussed the outcome of their YPN group project with Project 16:49, the growth of SCWBA young professionals involvement, their upcoming fall collaboration event, and announced small group project teams formation for the remainder of the year. YPC was formed with the intention of listening to all updates and sharing input from the perspective of our young members to ensure we are capturing their interests and tapping into their motivations with our mission driven activities, while expanding the network of young professionals in our association.

📢 Guest Presenter, WKOW, discussed the power of broadcast media marketing and advertising, member discounts, and future partnerships with media platforms.

🗓️ All Committees Meetings take place quarterly and are open to all members to come hear updates and share their input. The next meeting will be in August or September - date TBD. Meetings are informal and replace the old format of General Membership Meetings while offering a structured meeting where members can be updated on SCWBA business in an interactive and inviting way.

✉️ To join a committee or offer input, contact Heidi at office@scwba.com.

3-IN-1 BENEFIT HIGHLIGHT

Business and Personal Savings from NAHB

View your savings opportunities at a glance.

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MESSAGES FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Thank you to our Education volunteers who presented at our 5 area high schools, awarding $10,000 in scholarships to high school seniors from across South Central Wisconsin! Academic and Direct to Workforce scholarships allow us to encourage pathways that lead to careers in our industry, whether traditional 4 year college or on the job training in the workforce. We recognize and support all pathways into the building industry. Thank you Stephanie Mawhinney, Katie Alshouse, and Chris Engstrom for presenting awards at Milton High School, Beloit Turner High School, and Parker High School this year. Additional awards were presented at Craig High School and Lincoln Academy.

Thank you to all of our members and partners who dedicated their time and talents to this year's SCWBA Student Build. Special thanks to School District of Janesville for partnering their Advanced Construction classes from both Parker and Craig High Schools with us. Huge thanks to this year's General Contractor, Brian Kaiser (Kaiser Design/Build), for designing and managing this year's build project. So many members and partners make this program possible. 2025-2026 participating partners are showcased on page 2. Thank you to all! The home is for sale, listed by our members at Realty Executives Premier. Check it out and share the listing with anyone looking to buy a great value new construction in Janesville.

The Member Events and Engagement Committee did an excellent job bringing a great comedy night to life right here at SCWBA this year. We had good food, good conversations, and belly laughs...maybe a little nail biting too....all in good fun. They have simultaneously been hard at work planning this year's golf outing at a new location this year, Prairie Woods Golf Course. The theme is Red, White, and Birdie...celebrating 250 years of independence. Be sure to register your foursome if you haven't as there are only 3 left. Also....get your MERICA on and dress to impress. We will be awarding prizes for best dressed men and women. Thank you to our title sponsor, Bank of Milton!

My last sound off is one of fuzzy feels. My FAVORITE part of working for this association is the authenticity of our relationships, the camaraderie that is always present, the unity we share in our mission, and the closeness of our members. I can assure you, this does not happen in every organization and is something to truly be proud of. What makes me come back to work every day is really *knowing* my members. Knowing what matters to you. Knowing your team and your families and your purpose. I will do all I can for SCWBA and our members, and if I can't I will find you the resources. If there is a hardship, I will show up and fight for solutions. So, if you haven't gotten to know ME yet...that's who I am and I want to meet you. Feel free to email, call, text, schedule a coffee, or invite me to your company. The best way I can serve you is to know you and what you do! Every member matters, and there is always an opportunity that will fit, you just have to invite it in and take advantage of all we have to offer.

Reminders and Updates:

- The 2026 SCWBA Parade of Homes is coming this fall, September 17-20, brought to you by Johnson Financial Group. Parade of Homes entry contracts are due next week! We hope to have 20+ entries so don't miss the deadline! Thank you Johnson Financial Group for your generous support again this year!
- Be sure to follow our SCWBA social media pages and join our SCWBA Members Only Facebook page. Our scwba.com website is full of information as well, including our online member directory. Check it often for any events or updates you may have missed.

Until next time, be safe and have a great start to the summer season. As always, I am here to help and want to hear about YOUR favorites too! Just reach out with questions or ideas.
Heidi Van Kirk, SCWBA EO

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