

Mees Distributors will host February OVNARI meeting Members will learn about tile and stone fabrication and installation from the experts

Mees Distributors, which has been supplying a wide selection of ceramic tile and natural stone to southwest Ohio contractors since 1937, will host the February meeting of Ohio Valley NARI on Wednesday, February 11, at the Mees Cincinnati location, 1541 West Fork Avenue, just west of Colerain.

The meeting will feature a tour of the Mees fabrication shop & tile showroom, and include a sealer presentation. Mees stocks hundreds of different tiles and more than 130 colors of marble and granite. They operate and maintain one of the largest facilities for custom fabrication of natural stone slabs in the United States. Natural stone can be used for a variety of applications, and Mees has the ability to add several different finishes to the stone and unlimited edge treatments! They were among the first tile and stone distributors in the country to purchase a Computer Numerical Control machine with a laser scanner for custom fabrication of marble, granite, and limestone. This machine

can scan a image and etch it into the stone or produce it three dimensionally on the surface.

The meeting promises to be one of the most interesting and useful site visits Ohio Valley NARI has scheduled recently. If you want to learn more about stone and tile and how to use these versatile and decorative building materials effectively this is one meeting you won't want to miss.

Call the NARI office at 800-498-6274 to make reservations for the meeting.



John Hester briefs NARI on code matters

The Ohio Valley NARI January meeting was very informative for those who attended. John Hester, Hamilton County chief plan examiner, made his fourth visit to NARI in recent years. As usual his presentation was right on point. John has a flair for making even the dry building code interesting with plenty of good answers for NARI member's questions. We thank John for keeping us up to date on the changes in the building code and hope we can apply many of his tips to make both his and our jobs easier.

Call to RSVP

What: February OVNARI Dinner Meeting

When: Wednesday, February 12

Where: Mees Distributors
1541 West Fork Avenue

Time: 6:30 p.m.

RSVP: Ohio Valley NARI at 800-498-6274

Cost: Hosted by Mees Distributors

What's going on with Ohio Valley NARI by Greg Fischer, CR, President of Ohio Valley NARI

Your OVNARI board has pinpointed three areas to emphasize this coming year. We wish to see membership grow in our chapter. Julie Bliemeister will chair the membership committee and Steve Zimmer, CR, will be the Board Liaison. Please consider how you can help grow our chapter by being available if called to help on the committee or by asking the folks you work with and buy from if they would like to sample what we have to offer. It's going to take a joint effort to grow our chapter and the biggest beneficiary will be the membership. We do not do this for dollar profit but to profit from the many benefits and relationships that NARI membership brings.

At the January meeting we had two prospective members as visitors, Edd Stanton from the West Chester Home Depot and Ed Kramer, CR, brought R.B. Davis from Signature Kitchens. We are always pleased to see new faces at our meetings and welcome them to return to our next meeting.

Our second area is our meetings and we have some great tours and activities on the planning board for this year. Our February meeting will be a plant and showroom tour at Mees Distributors and our March meeting will be at Marsh Building Products. We are listing to our members comments and are planning an interesting picnic in June. We will keep you informed as our annual schedule is filled in so you can plan accordingly. We also welcome suggestions for meeting locations and topics.

Our third area is our continuing emphasis on education. We are planning educational activities as we have in the past. On a more current note, remember to consider the Miami Valley NARI Remodeler's Forum on March 23 in Wilmington, Ohio. If you need a brochure or more information call the NARI office at 1-800-498-6274 for assistance.

May the month of February be filled with remodeling opportunities and successes for all our members.



Coming Events

February 11 - 6:30 p.m.

Topic: Tile & Stone
Location: Mees Distributors
Cost: Hosted by Mees

March 11 - 6:30 p.m.

Topic: TBD
Location: Marsh Building Products
Cost: Hosted by Marsh

March 23 - 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Topic: Remodeler's Forum
Location: Roberts Center, Wilmington
Cost: \$129

March 24 & 25 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Topic: Chief Architect Seminar
Location: Sinclair Community College
Cost: \$595

NARI members in Cincinnati and Dayton bring seven regional CotYs to S.W. Ohio

As usual Cincinnati and southwest Ohio were well-represented when the NARI National Office announced the winners of the 2004 Regional Contractor of the Year Awards in January.

Ohio Valley NARI was represented on the elite list by two members, who had previously won local CotY recognition. Neal's Remodeling won the Region IV awards in the Residential Kitchen Over \$100,000, the Residential Bath Over \$60,000, and the Residential Interior Over \$100,000 categories. Murphy Home Improvement earned regional CotY recognition in the Residential Exterior Under \$100,000 category.

The record of excellence continued north of Cincinnati with Miami Valley NARI members Hurst Total Home and Remodeling Designs winning a total of three regional awards.

Two important educational programs to be held in southwest Ohio in March

The Miami Valley NARI Education Committee has completed arrangements for two useful educational programs in March.

First on the calendar is a full-day regional seminar covering such subjects as decision-making, negotiating, selling, legal liability, and secrets of business success on Tuesday, March 23, at the new Roberts Center in Wilmington.

Featured speakers for "Remodeler's Forum: Inspired Solutions" include Marcella Balin, an independent business coach and presenter; Shawn Blatt, from the law firm Freund Freeze & Arnold; Shawn McCadden, CR, CLC, president of Design/Build U, and Gayle Sampson, president of Mid-West Building Diagnostics.

All events will take place in the Hamilton Rooms at the Roberts Center, located adjacent to the Ramada Inn at I-71 and U.S. Route 68, just north of Wilmington. The convention complex is 50 miles from downtown Cincinnati.

The cost of the seminar is \$129 for NARI members. Additional registrations from the same company are \$109. After March 1 registration fees are \$149 and \$129. Fees for non-members are \$199 on or before March 1 and \$129 after March 1.

Educational opportunities continue on March 24 and 25 with a two-day class on using Chief Architect, one of the most popular CAD programs among remodelers and home builders.

Instructors from Chief Architect will conduct the course using Chief Architect 9. This is an intermediate/advanced skill level course that will teach remodeling professionals how to create designs for clients by placing and arranging walls, windows, doors and architectural objects, and generating 3D models in minutes. Participants will learn

how to be more productive, establish more business, and ensure satisfied customers.

To prepare for the course prospective participants are advised to complete the basic Chief Architect training on a tutorial CD, which is available from the software publisher. Visit the Chief Architect web site at www.chiefarchitect.com for information.

The cost of the for NARI members is just \$595, for participants who bring their own laptop computers. Registrant supplied laptops must be at least Windows 98 compatible with a 400 MHz processor or larger, have at least 800 MB of available hard disk space for a full installation, 64 MB of RAM or more, a CDROM drive, a 2-button



mouse supported by Windows, a color monitor which supports 16 bit color in a screen resolution of 800 x 600 or greater, and a video card which supports OpenGL.

The Chief Architect training program will be held in downtown Dayton at Sinclair Community College, Building 12, Room 133. Sinclair is located directly east of I-75. Take the Third Street exit and park in one of the several garages on the campus.

This is the first time the "official" Chief Architect training program has been offered in southwest Ohio. In fact, it's the first time it has been offered within 500 miles of Cincinnati. If you use Chief Architect, or plan to add computer aided design to your inventory of business tools, this is an opportunity you can't afford to miss.

Detailed information about both the seminar and the Chief Architect program has been mailed to all Ohio Valley NARI members. If you did not receive the informational flyers or have misplaced them call the NARI office at 800-498-6274.

Plan to enhance your professional knowledge by participating in both events.



Ohio Valley NARI

Serving the Cincinnati Metropolitan Area
136 South Keowee Street • Dayton, Ohio 45402
800.498.NARI

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAYTON, OH
PERMIT NO. 1519

Increase your chances of winning a CotY by documenting good projects now

In November two Ohio Valley NARI members, Murphy Home Improvement and Neal's Remodeling, received local Contractor of the Year awards for outstanding remodeling projects completed in the 15 month period from July 2003 through October 2004. Last month those same NARI members received a total of four regional CotY awards.

Winning a CotY award is the highest honor NARI's chapters, regions, and national organization can confer on a member. If you would like to see your company's name among next year's CotY winners the time to start on your entry is now.

Projects completed between July 1, 2003, and October 29, 2004, are (or will be) eligible for CotY awards. If you have an exceptional project underway or on your schedule start by documenting the job with "before" and "during" photographs to support your entry.

There are 18 different categories covering projects in cost ranges from under \$15,000 to over \$250,000. You will find detailed descriptions of each category in the 2005 CotY information, which is now available at www.naricincinnati.org.

The mission of Ohio Valley NARI is:

- ✓ To establish and maintain the association's firm commitment to developing and sustaining programs that expand and unite the remodeling industry as well as to ensure the industry's growth and security.
- ✓ To encourage ethical conduct, sound business practices, and professionalism in the remodeling industry.
- ✓ To present NARI as the recognized authority in the remodeling industry.

These missions are carried out by:

- ✓ Promoting the common business interests of those engaged in the industry.
- ✓ Sponsoring educational programs and activities for members.
- ✓ Enlightening consumers to the needs and advantages of home remodeling and maintenance, thereby improving the nation's housing inventory.
- ✓ Recommending legislative and regulatory action that safeguards and preserves the remodeling industry, and stimulates the marketplace.

Goals of chapter to accomplish mission:

- ✓ To provide education to enhance professional and personal competencies.
- ✓ To create and encourage networking.
- ✓ To develop and promote the profession.
- ✓ To serve as a resource center.
- ✓ To provide quality publications to members.
- ✓ To improve membership and membership participation.
- ✓ To improve consumer awareness.
- ✓ To remain proactive on current and pending legislation.

THE NARI RENOVATOR

A Publication of Ohio Valley NARI

The NARI Renovator is produced by Ohio Valley NARI as a service and benefit to its membership. The organization's office is located at 136 South Keowee Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402; (800) 498-NARI or fax (937) 222-5794.

Ohio Valley NARI Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board, Ed Kramer, CR, CabitDesign, Inc.
President, Greg Fischer, CR, Gregory Construction
Vice President, Matt Bliemeister, Nationwide Floor Window Coverings
Secretary, Steve Zimmer, CR, Steve Zimmer Home Improvements
Treasurer, Steve McCord, CR, Steve McCord Carpentry
Directors
Norb Boh, CR, Norb Boh Construction; Glen Hollon, Hollon Construction; Jeff McCoy, Exteriors Unlimited