

Contractor registration explained at April OVNARI meeting HB 461 addresses many issues raised by Ohio NARI chapters at meeting in March

Remodeling contractor registration in Ohio moved forward with the introduction of House Bill 461 on April 13, and NARI members were pleased to learn that many of the issues identified at a meeting of five Ohio chapters in March were addressed in the legislation as introduced.

Omitted from the final bill was a provision requiring affidavits from subs and suppliers stating that they have been paid. The bill also contains revised requirements for salesperson registration and warranties that eliminated objectionable features of earlier drafts. Still of concern are sections mandating reporting of extensive personal information, including home addresses and telephone numbers, about management and sales personnel and a requirement that all inspections be completed before final payment.

At the April Ohio Valley NARI meeting Russ Masetta, president and Government Relations chair of NARI of Greater Cleveland, and Brenda Callahan, executive direc-



Ohio Valley NARI President Greg Fischer, CR, (left) is shown with Brenda Callahan, executive director of NARI of Greater Cleveland, and Russ Masetta, president of the Cleveland chapter, at the April meeting of Ohio Valley NARI. The visitors from northeast Ohio were in Cincinnati to discuss progress in establishing statewide registration of home improvement contractors.

tor of the Cleveland chapter, reported on the process that led to the current proposed legislation. Since the 1980s Ohio's NARI chapters have advocated fair and effective statewide remodeling contractor registration or licensing. Unfortunately, all previous proposals have been seen as anti-contractor and did not gain NARI support.

NARI of Greater Cleveland has been directly involved in the creation of the current legislation, and as a result, it does not have many of the objectionable provisions of previous bills. Russ pointed out that one of the very positive features of the bill is an industry-heavy registration board that would

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Call to RSVP

What: May OVNARI Dinner Meeting
When: Thursday, May 13
Where: Wine Cellar Innovations
 4575 Eastern Avenue
Time: 6:30 p.m.
RSVP: Ohio Valley NARI at 800-498-6274
Cost: Hosted by Wine Cellar Innovations

NARI elects new national officers at spring board meeting in Chicago

At its Spring Board of Directors meeting, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry named immediate past president Mark Brick, CR, of B&E General Contractors, Inc. in Glendale, Wisc., as its Chairman of the Board and named Joan Stephens, CR, of Stronghold Construction in Boise, Idaho as its President for the coming year. Paul Winans, CR, of Winans Construction in Oakland, Calif., was elected to the office of President-Elect.

During her term Stephens plans to focus on NARI's presence in the media and on legislative issues, as well as educational outreach to remodelers.

Stephens assumes the role of President after serving in the capacity of President-Elect for the past year. Stephens first served as Region VI Vice President for three years, Secretary, Treasurer, Third Vice President, then Second Vice President, before serving as President-Elect.

Stephens is the co-owner of Stronghold Construction as well as a Sandler Sales Institute Franchise.

Other officers elected during the meeting, include: 2nd Vice President Everett Collier, CR, of Collier-Ostrom Enterprises, Inc. in San Francisco, Calif.; 3rd Vice President John Gordon, of The Home Depot, Atlanta, Ga.; Treasurer Tom Hagner, CRS, of Better Building By Weather-Seal, Ltd. in Racine, Wisc.; and Secretary Linda Schoffman, of Design Link, Portland, Ore.

Norb Boh, CR, a director of Ohio Valley NARI, represented the chapter at the meeting, which was held March 29-April 3 in Chicago.

Wine Cellar Innovations will host OVNARI with a wine and cheese reception

When it comes to hobbies collecting wine beats coins, stamps, or comic books in one very significant way. You can't drink a 1902 Morgan silver dollar, a 15¢ Black Z Grill, or a mint condition first edition Superman. Of course, if you happen to have a '59 Chateau d'Yquem or a '61 Romanee-Conti the thought of drinking a beverage worth hundreds of dollars a swallow may be a little off-putting.

If you did possess such liquid treasure a proper storage facility would be a "must." In fact, proper storage is essential for keeping any fine wine to maturity. That's where Wine Cellar Innovations, site of the May meeting of Ohio Valley NARI, enters the picture. Wine Cellar Innovations is one of the world's foremost designers and manufacturers of custom home wine cellars and wine racks.

With wine enjoying immense popularity

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Coming Events

May 13 - 6:30 p.m.

Topic: Building Private Wine Cellars
Location: Wine Cellar Innovations
4575 Eastern Avenue
Cost: Wine & Cheese hosted by
Wine Cellar Innovations

June 10 - 6:30 p.m.

Topic: OVNARI Annual Picnic
featuring games & tool swap
Location: Sharon Woods
Cost: TBA

August 12 - 10:00 a.m.

Topic: OVNARI Golf Tournament
Location: Twin Oaks G.C. - Covington
Cost: \$85 per player



Statewide contractor registration moves forward *(Continued from page 1)*

oversee the registration program. He said that a board heavily weighted with contractors would not likely adopt policies that are unfavorable to legitimate contractors.

Brenda said that her chapter actively pursued state registration to help improve the professional image of qualified, reputable remodeling contractors. She said that in the Cleveland area stories about remodeling scams and victimized home owners are common in the media.

"I tell reporters, don't call these people 'contractors.' Call them what they are — 'crooks,'" she said.

The most controversial section of the bill requires that the home addresses and telephone numbers of all partners, corporate officers, and sales representatives be reported to the state. Many participants in the March meeting that reviewed the legislation said this provision violates personal privacy and is unnecessary since the business address is reported. Russ said that a justification for it is to provide a mechanism to prevent "bad apples" from moving from company to company in the industry. He said that as an employer he would like to have an easy way to check the remodeling business histories of potential representatives.

Some OVNARI members expressed the opinion that simple registration doesn't address the professional qualifications of contractors and their employees. Brenda said the hope is that at some time licensing or continuing education requirements tied to NARI education and certification programs could be instituted. This would obviously be beneficial to NARI members.

Another point of interest raised by some chapter members was redundant licensing by the state and local jurisdictions. There is general recognition that the primary interest of local communities is tax collection. Russ said that there has been some preliminary discussion of ways to eliminate separate local registration while still addressing the interests of local jurisdictions.

Russ and Brenda emphasized that there is still a long legislative process ahead of the proposed legislation before statewide home improvement contractor registration becomes a reality in Ohio. They asked the chapter and its members to participate in the process by actively supporting the bill while bringing remaining areas of concern to the attention of the legislature.

Employers can prohibit carrying weapons on company premises and work sites

Ohio has joined 44 other states that allow citizens to carry hidden guns, but according to Dayton attorney Bob Dunlevey the "right to carry" isn't unlimited. Property owners and employers can forbid employees from carrying firearms through postings and policies.

Property owners may post signs in conspicuous locations forbidding firearms on the premises. Employers may prohibit firearms through employment policies. If you have a "Firearms Prohibited" sign, you do not need a written policy, but one is recommended. To prevent employees from carrying firearms or other weapons while on duty but off of company premises or while in company vehicles, you must have a policy or rule. Obviously, this is of special interest to contractors.

One suggested policy reads as follows:

We wish to reaffirm our policy regarding weapons. Even though Ohio law permits citizens to carry concealed firearms, this law does not override our company policies. It remains our policy that weapons of any kind, including firearms, cannot be possessed by an employee or representative of our company or by an invitee on company controlled property including company facilities, parking lots, job sites, and vehicles. Violation of this policy is a basis for immediate discharge and ejection from the premises. Report any observed violation of this policy immediately. The company will exercise its right to inspect the persons and belongings of employees when cause exists to believe the policy is being violated.



Ohio Valley NARI

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Jim Turner is elected Region IV VP

Representatives of NARI chapters in Region IV, which includes Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky, elected Jim Turner, president of NARI of Central Ohio as Regional Vice President at a regional meeting held during the NARI national board meeting.

Turner is owner of Regency Wallcraft, Gahanna, a firm specializing in wallcoverings installation.

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.

Reception *(Continued from page 2)*

among the increasingly affluent "baby boom" generation home wine cellars are now a staple feature of many upscale homes—and quite a few moderate price residences too. Our visit to Wine Cellar Innovations on May 13 will give NARI members the opportunity to become acquainted with, well, the innovations in residential wine storage they may want to offer clients.

The meeting will be a wine and cheese reception hosted by Wine Cellar Innovations at the factory and showroom at 4575 Eastern Avenue, just west of Lunken Airport. If you are traveling inbound (west) on Eastern look for a large blue-sided building on the left. If you are coming from downtown on Eastern Avenue look for a Burgundy awning on the right side of the road.



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.

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