



February 2014

# NSHBA NEWS

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 26, Registration Deadline for Legislative Dinner
- March 5, 2014  
3:00pm Board Meeting  
**CANCELLED**
- March 5, 2014  
NSHBA Annual Legislative Dinner  
Wilderness Ridge Lodge  
Lincoln, NE  
6:00pm Cocktails  
7:00pm Dinner

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### **NSHBA LEGISLATIVE DINNER Wed. March 5, 2014:**

There is still time to get your reservation in for this dinner to be held at Wilderness Ridge at 6:00 PM. Cost is \$60.00 Per Person or \$480.00 for a table of eight. Please get your reservations to [nhomebuilders@windstream.net](mailto:nhomebuilders@windstream.net) or call [402-435-6772](tel:402-435-6772) by February 26<sup>th</sup>. Checks payable to NSHBA-PAC at 1327 "H" Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. Please call your senator and personally encourage him to attend. We look forward to seeing all of you at this important event.



## **Nebraska State Home Builders**

has a unique opportunity the week of March 17 through March 21st. Due to the fact that Congress will not be in session during our Spring Board Meeting in Washington, I will be setting up meetings for NSHBA with our Congressional Delegation here in

Nebraska. This will give the members of the Nebraska State Home Builders Association an opportunity to meet with their congressman and senators. These meetings will take the place of the Legislative Conference which is held in Washington, D. C. each year.

I will be contacting your local association as I finalize plans for these meetings and you will also be notified through email communication. Again, this is a wonderful opportunity for each of you to participate in the process of meeting with your elected officials and talking about the importance of housing. There will be specific materials and issues that we will include in these meetings. That material is still being finalized in Washington and will be made available to us for our meetings. I look forward to seeing many of you at these meetings as we "Take Housing Home".



<http://nahbenews.com/proofs/proofs/?id=nahbmbl20140113#0>

## **U.S. Chamber Endorses Congressman Adrian Smith for Reelection – Congratulations**

### **NSHBA Endorses – Beau McCoy for Governor**

The Nebraska State Home Builders Association Board of Directors has announced its support of Senator Beau McCoy for the office of Governor of Nebraska. The association has worked with Senator McCoy on several important building issues and has found him to be very competent in his efforts. As a member of our industry, he is keenly aware of the problems that construction faces and the strain that the numerous regulations has put on our industry.

# *“Protect, Promote, Participate”*

## MEMBERSHIP MANIA

**It's 2014 and what better thing to do then ... get a new member.**

NSHBA Membership Chair Don Wisnieski of Norfolk is challenging each local association to "Get One a Month". His challenge is for each local association to log in one new builder or associate member a month. We will be tracking each of the five locals to record their progress. There will be a prize at the end of the year. We are growing and Don wants to add 60 new members to our roster this year. Thank you for all of your effort. Affiliate Members will not count in the competition, but do count in your overall numbers of your total membership.



MEMBERS  
HELPING  
MEMBERS



## International Builders Show



# The Value of NAHB Membership

## Unlock the Value of Membership

*NAHB exists to serve its members.*

Fighting for housing on major policy issues, providing excellent educational programming, and creating outstanding networking opportunities are just some of the ways that NAHB fulfills that mandate.

Find out more what NAHB does for you [click here](#).

[http://www.valueofnahb.org/showpage\\_details.aspx?showpageID=22242](http://www.valueofnahb.org/showpage_details.aspx?showpageID=22242)

**Congratulations to all of you who helped us meet this goal.**

**Our team work is amazing.**

**Thank you to all BUILD-PAC contributors who participated in the 2x2014 Challenge!**

We appreciate your hard work last year to **recruit** new members and **educate** your peers about the importance of supporting BUILD-PAC and NAHB advocacy efforts.

Congratulations to the six (6) states who exceeded their goals:

**HAWAII  
IDAHO  
MINNESOTA  
MISSISSIPPI  
NEBRASKA  
UTAH**

We appreciate you going above and beyond to grow BUILD-PAC's membership base at the local level!

In another critical election year, it is important that you all continue to spread BUILD-PAC's message far and wide amongst our membership. Help folks understand why YOU give, how NAHB's Advocacy Team is working on behalf of the entire membership in Washington, and how several voices are louder and stronger than one voice on Capitol Hill.

**Questions about where your Area Caucus or state ended up?  
Contact [BUILD-PAC staff](#) and we'll be happy to send you an update.**

1201 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

# WASHINGTON UPDATE:

## Inaugural Design & Construction Week Draws 75,000 to Las Vegas

First Co-Located International Builders' Show - KBIS is Huge Success [Read More](#)

## Meet the 2014 NAHB Leadership Team –



Kelly

Woods

Brady



MacDonald

Judson

Howard

*Delaware builder and developer Kevin Kelly took the helm as NAHB's 2014 chairman during the NAHB Board of Directors meeting at the International Builders' Show on February 6.*

*Kelly is president of Leon N. Weiner & Associates, Inc. of Wilmington, and has several decades of experience in land development, multifamily and single-family home building, and property management.*

For complete article click link below.

<http://nahbenews.com/nahbmmb/issues/2014-02-17.html#1>

## Medium-Size Employers Get One-Year Reprieve from Health Care Law Mandate

The White House announced Feb. 10 that it will grant employers with 50 to 99 full-time workers an additional one-year extension to Jan. 1, 2016 to comply with the requirements under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). By that date, these employers must provide health care coverage or pay a tax penalty. Those who own and control multiple business entities may need to jointly calculate the number of employees in all of their business entities, as the law is still unclear whether the owner of multiple businesses is considered a single employer. [READ MORE](#)

<http://nahbenews.com/nahbmmb/issues/2014-02-17.html#1>

**SAFETY CONCERN:** Please see the following link to a notification regarding some defective snap hooks. They are made by Yoke Industrial and used on many different manufacturer's fall protection equipment. Please check any equipment you may be responsible for and pass this information on as necessary.

[http://www.safteng.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3139:product-notification--yoke-snap--rebar-hooks-for-fall-protection&catid=54:safety-alerts&Itemid=308](http://www.safteng.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3139:product-notification--yoke-snap--rebar-hooks-for-fall-protection&catid=54:safety-alerts&Itemid=308)

# ***NEWS UPDATE***

## **Nebraska Chamber of Commerce**

### **TODAY'S TOP HEADLINE**

#### **'Nebraska Gets Low Grades As Retirement Haven'**

MarketWatch columnist [Robert Powell](#) writes that when it comes deciding on a state in which to retire, taxes should be a consideration -- specifically "state taxes on retirement benefits, state income-tax rates, state and local sales tax rates, state and local property taxes, state estate taxes, state inheritance taxes, and the overall tax burden." Powell mentions Nebraska several times in his [column](#), but in an unfavorable light. Under the category of "states to avoid," Powell writes: "The least income tax-friendly states, if the bulk of your retirement income is coming from pensions and Social Security, would certainly include Nebraska, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia." He notes that Nebraska is among 14 states that impose a tax on Social Security income, and that the Cornhusker State is listed as one of 16 states with the highest property tax burdens. Only seven states collect an inheritance tax, but one of them is Nebraska. Powell concludes: "(N)othing is ever certain when it comes to taxes. And right now, plenty of states are changing the way the tax retirement income — sometimes for the better and sometimes not."

### **NEBRASKA & REGIONAL NEWS**

#### **'Economists say updated tax system would help Nebraska grow'**

(Nebraska Radio Network) -- KMLand.com reports that a modernized tax system could help Nebraska's economy grow, according to experts. Economist Eric Thompson, director of the Bureau of Business Research at UNL, and fellow UNL economist John Anderson "suggest flattening state income tax rates and broadening the sales tax." That could spur modest job growth, they say. "The study recommends folding four personal income tax brackets into two, with a bottom tax rate of 2.5% and a top rate of 5.5%. The corporate income tax rate would be divided in two with a low rate of 3% and a top rate of 5.5%." A study by Creighton University economist Ernie Goss "recommends lowering the state income tax rate by 5% each year for the next five years, eliminating the tangible personal property tax, limiting the growth of state aid to local governmental units to the growth of population and consumer prices, and getting rid of tax breaks provided to services offered by non-profits that compete with private business."

[http://www.kmland.com/news/economist-says-updated-tax-system-would-help-nebraska-grow/article\\_a2305760-925d-11e3-b43d-0017a43b2370.html](http://www.kmland.com/news/economist-says-updated-tax-system-would-help-nebraska-grow/article_a2305760-925d-11e3-b43d-0017a43b2370.html)

#### **'Report: Nebraskans claimed nearly \$300M in earned income tax breaks in 2013'**

(Nebraska Radio Network) -- NebraskaRadioNetwork.com reports on the Earned Income Tax Credit, which provides tax relief to "individuals and families who earned less than \$52,000." According to the story, "134,000 Nebraska taxpayers claimed the credit for a total of \$296 million. The average credit was for about \$2,210."

<http://nebraskaradionetwork.com/2014/02/10/tax-break-available-to-nebraskans-making-52k-or-less/>

#### **'Nebraska startups attract attention, cash from investors outside state'**

(Omaha World-Herald) -- Omaha.com reports, "Nebraska startups attracted as many deals in 2013 as there were in the previous five years combined, and local companies are increasingly capturing the attention and investments of investors." According to the story, "at least 23 Nebraska-based startups attracted around \$43 million in investments last year." In-state organizations like Nebraska Angels and Invest Nebraska, "which advise local companies, directly invest in them or help them find investors," helped fuel the increase in investment dollars.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20140210/MONEY/140219984/1685>

## 'ObamaCare's employer mandate pushed back again'

(The Hill) -- TheHill.com reports, "The Obama administration on Monday announced it is delaying the employer mandate in ObamaCare until 2016 for some businesses." As the article notes, this is the second delay in the mandate, but it applies only to businesses with "between 50 and 99 employees, who would have until January 2016 to decide whether to offer insurance to their employees or pay a penalty. Businesses would also be barred from cutting their workers in order to fall under the threshold." Other businesses with 50 or more full-time employees have until January of 2015 to comply.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/healthcare/197974-administration-delays-obamacare-mandate-for-small-businesses#ixzz2sxW5jdd0>

## 'Study: Small biz health costs have doubled under Obama'

(The Hill) -- TheHill.com reports that "health care costs for small businesses have doubled under President Obama," according to a new report from the National Small Business Association. The study "surveyed 780 small business owners and found that health care cost increases are preventing many companies from growing." The study reported: "Small businesses pay a monthly average of \$1,121 per employee for health insurance premiums, up from \$590 in 2009." As a result, "one-third of small firms say they are purposefully not growing as a result of the law."

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/197702-study-small-biz-health-costs-doubled-under-obama#ixzz2sxXrimkz>

## OPINION: 'Growth of welfare state endangers essential government functions'

(Washington Post) -- At WashingtonPost.com, columnist Robert J. Samuelson writes that U.S. "governmental competence is being systematically degraded" even as government "spending is growing larger." Samuelson's main argument: "We are spending more and getting less" due to an aging population and higher spending on government assistance programs. He writes, "Over the next decade, all the government's projected program growth stems from Social Security and health care, including the Affordable Care Act. By 2024, everything else will represent only 7.4% of national income (gross domestic product), the lowest share since at least 1940." This trend is likely to continue "because the constituencies for welfare benefits, led by Social Security's 57 million." This will negatively impact essential government functions like the military, as defense spending "is projected to fall by 40% from 2010 to 2024."

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/robert-j-samuelson-the-end-of-government/2014/02/09/94096a0c-9021-11e3-b46a-5a3d0d2130da\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/robert-j-samuelson-the-end-of-government/2014/02/09/94096a0c-9021-11e3-b46a-5a3d0d2130da_story.html)

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!**

**MARCH 5<sup>th</sup> - NSHBA Annual Legislative Dinner**

**Wilderness Ridge Lodge**

**1800 Wilderness Woods Place – Lincoln, NE**

**6:00pm Cocktails**

**7:00pm Dinner**

**\$60 per Individual - \$480 per Table**

**Call - (402) 435-6772 or email [nhomebuilders@windstream.net](mailto:nhomebuilders@windstream.net)**

**Make Check Payable to NSHBA-PAC, send to 1327 H St., Lincoln, NE 68508**

**Register by February 26th**

**NEBRASKA STATE  
HOME BUILDERS  
ASSOCIATION**

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**Executive Committee**

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1st Vice President

Mike Gray  
Associate Vice President

Stan Poff  
Treasurer

Allen Barber  
Immediate Past President  
NAHB State Representative

Barbara Byrd  
Executive Officer



**Education: NAHB – Webinar Wednesdays**

**[How to Avoid Paying Penalties Under Health Reform](#)**

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2-3 p.m. ET  
*Business Improvement series*

**[How Will your Premium Costs be Impacted by by Health Reform?](#)**

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2-3 p.m. ET  
*Business Improvement series*

**[What Business Owners Need to Know to Comply with the Health Reform Law](#)**

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2-3 p.m. ET  
*Business Improvement series*

**[Using Your NAHB Designations to Mine Marketing and PR Gold](#)**

Tuesday, March 4, 2-3 p.m. ET  
*Business Improvement series*

**[Falling in Love with the Neighborhood](#)**

Wednesday, March 5, 2-3 p.m. ET  
*Design and Technology series*

**[Home Buyer Preferences: Not All Buyers are Created Equal](#)**

Wednesday, March 12, 2-3 p.m. ET  
*Economics and Research series*

**[Planning for Profits in your Remodeling Business](#)**

Wednesday, March 19, 2-3 p.m. ET  
*Business Improvement series*

**[Introduction to OSHA for Small Builders](#)**

Wednesday, March 26, 2-3 p.m. ET  
*Policy and Finance series*

**NSHBA Mission Statement**

The Nebraska State Home Builders Association represents the residential and light commercial building industry at the state level and assists local associations and individual members by pursuing a suitable environment to ensure the vitality of the building industry for the benefit of its members, and to promote quality & affordable housing for the people of Nebraska.

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***Thank you NSHBA Sponsors***