



Great Night for a Great Industry

By Walt Hibner, Executive Director
Home Builders Association of Dayton

Last night was an evening that will go down in home building industry history.

Jenny Diorio, president of R.L. Diorio Custom Homes, was installed as the 2008 president of the Home Builders Association of Dayton. She was officially recognized during inaugural ceremonies at Dayton Country Club.

Diorio is the first woman president of the Association in its 66-year history. Her father, Ronald L. Diorio, served as HBA president in 1989.

Joining Diorio on the 2008 Executive Committee are president-elect Marty Coates, Jr., of M.J. Coates Custom Homes; vice president Dan Ernst of Ernst Concrete; treasurer Bob Springer of Van Con, Inc.; secretary Scott Walton of ClosetWorks; and immediate past president Greg Vreeland of Vreeland Construction.

Joining the HBA officers on the 2008 Board of Trustees are Lisa Allan of the Dayton Daily News; Newt Bartel of Fortress Homes; Scott Denlinger of Design Homes and Development; Rick Flaute of Supply One; Jeff Grisez of Generations Construction; Kim Haverstick of Haverstick Builders; Mary Hovell of M. Michaels Custom Homes; Kathy Shaw of First Place Bank; Ted Stahl of Dayton Door Sales; Tom Tanner of Tanner Heating and Air Conditioning; Adam Zengel of Zengel Construction; and Matt Zimmerman of Nisbet-Brower.

The Inaugural ceremony was also the venue for the Association to recognize its distinguished leaders with four very special awards – Associate Member of the Year, a new award for this year – The Industry Partner Award, Builder Member of the Year, and the McDaniel-Zengel Leadership Award.

Tom Tanner was the winner of the 2007 Associate Member of the Year. He has continued a long tradition of leadership in the home building industry and dedication to the association that has spanned more than 40 years. In following the footsteps of his father Bob, who received this award in 1991, he is President of one of our region's most respected subcontracting firms. He has served several terms on the HBA Board, served as co-chair of the Associates Council – the largest and fastest-growing arm of the HBA – and has served for many, many years as the successful and innovative chairman of Table Top Night.

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and Administration was the recipient of the HBA's first Industry Partner Award. The County has established, over a very long period of time, a spirit of collaboration and support of the HBA and the home building industry. The organization may be the only local government to institutionalize HBA input regarding permit and inspection fees and transfer taxes. Since the very first meeting of the Montgomery County Developers Council founded by the HBA in the early 1990's, they have been active partners. They have been willing to review with the HBA their new programs in advance, seeking to understand how the theory of regulation intersects with the reality of enforcement in the field.

It was announced that Mike Oberer was the 2007 HBA Builder Member of the Year. He has been an active member of the HBA for more than 20 years, and is a principal in the region's largest, locally-owned home building firm. He has served in every major office of the HBA, including the presidency in 2000. It was noted that his behind-the-scenes support of the HBA, his acute political insight, and his exceptional support of our industry reflect both the industry leadership of his family over more than 50 years, and his personal dedication and integrity.

Alan Pippenger earned the McDaniel-Zengel Leadership Award, the HBA's highest honor, which is named for the late Bob McDaniel and the still very active Karl Zengel, two giants of the Dayton home building industry and Association. Alan joins Bob McDaniel, Karl and Jim Zengel, George Oberer, Jr. and Sr., Harry Brown, Joe Haverstick, Bob and Steve Rhoads – and other giants of the industry. He is the great-great grandson of the founder of the F.A. Requarth Company where he now serves as president. His service to the HBA and his community over more than 20 years has been both relentless and effective. He has served as both Secretary and Vice President of the Association and has held key leadership position on many HBA committees. He has likewise been very active in the community. He was elected to the Harrison Township Board of Trustees in 1995, is a Past President of the Downtown Dayton Rotary, and currently serves as Vice President of the Board of Five Rivers MetroParks. His thoughtful, analytical approach to often complicated issues has earned him the everlasting respect of his colleagues. It is also very important to note that as the recipient of the 2007 McDaniel-Zengel Leadership Award, he is the first Associate Member in the history of the Association to receive it.