



**HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION**  
of Dayton

## **Just what is a Home Builders Association?**

By Walt Hibner, Executive Director  
Home Builders Association of Dayton

Having now been in my current position as the Executive Director of the Home Builders Association of Dayton for 18 months, I find it understandable that my teenage kids don't know what it is I do for a living, but I find it even more interesting that my wife, of twenty years, struggles to get people to understand who I work for and what we do. I often get approached as if the organization in which I am employed actually builds homes. It's not always easy to give the 10 second "elevator speech" description.

This leads me to believe that an explanation of the purpose of the Home Builders Association of Dayton may be helpful.

The rich roots of the association date back to 1941, the United States entered war and the country realized shortages of almost everything, including building materials. In 1942, nine area builders understood the need for an effort to urge Congress to secure building materials for Montgomery County. In June of 1942, the Home Builders Association of Montgomery County was formed under their first President, Joe Haverstick. He was also instrumental in the forming of the Ohio Home Builders Association and the National Association of Home Builders. The maximum price for a new home at the time was \$6,000.

With this history, the Home Builders Association of Dayton (or HBA as many know us) is currently a trade industry organization representing in a single voice, about 600 members and friends of the industry. Today's purpose is much the same as it was in the 1940's; assist and promote the home building industry.

The association members are not only home builders, but also Associate members including all the material suppliers such as lumber, cabinets and doors, the trade sub contractors such as carpenters, plumbers, electricians and bricklayers. And professional organizations including title companies, lending institutions, and legal firms.

The non-profit association is governed by a volunteer, elected Board of Directors made up of both Builder and Associate members. There are also several Councils and Committees that have defined roles and responsibilities.

As members of the HBA of Dayton they are automatically members of the Ohio Home Builders Association (OHBA) which advocates for the industry at the state legislative level and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) which supports the industry on a national level with services, programs and advocacy in Washington DC.

The HBA of Dayton mission is to make the Dayton region more attractive to business and residents, by providing superior value in home ownership by promoting industry standards, educating members and the community, marketing member capabilities, and advocating for responsible development.

One role, as indicated in the mission statement is to promote industry standards. The Association develops and refines industry construction standards. These guidelines serve to align the builders and homebuyers expectations as they relate to the construction of new homes.

Education is an important component of any trade association. The HBA of Dayton gives industry professionals many opportunities to gain valuable knowledge through educational offerings locally, such as the Green Building Symposium held last August, to many classes offered by NAHB throughout the year. Also, the HBA website [www.HBADayton.com](http://www.HBADayton.com) has information for the new home buyer.

Promoting member capabilities is accomplished through the ever popular home shows such as the Parade of Homes, Citirama, Rehabarama and Homearama. These showcase events highlight the quality and features built into new homes in the Dayton region.

The HBA of Dayton is also the primary advocate for the home building industry providing the Dayton region a go-to source for credible information on responsible building and developing.

Now with a better understanding of the Home Builders Association of Dayton, and as you consider building a new home, it would be very worthwhile to do business with an HBA of Dayton member.