

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2007 AHBA President. I would like to thank Howard Ferree and the 2006 Board of Directors for laying the foundation for the upcoming year. We also have a wonderful Asheville HBA staff and I feel that Caroline and Adrienne are going to accomplish great things this year for our Association. We are beginning to become a more technologically advanced HBA with the implementation of PhoneTree, a voice messaging system that will allow the staff to remind all members of meetings & events. You will also be able to RSVP, by simply pressing a button. This will help give the staff a more accurate count and allow us to budget wisely for events.

In 2007, we are excited about becoming a “Greener” HBA. Many of you have expressed an interest in a paperless newsletter and we are going to bring it to you in 07. By the end of the 1st quarter, you will have the option to receive the newsletter by mail or email. Remember the AHBA Newsletter is still available each month online at www.ashevillehba.com

As you can see our HBA is growing! We are just a few members away from reaching 700. As we see continued growth within our HBA, we want to encourage all members to get involved! Within the AHBA, you can become involved on many levels... committees, sponsorships, Board of Directors, and much more... It is my goal for 2007 to grow our HBA through member involvement & participation. We have a strong organization with great leadership that I truly believe can accomplish all goals that have been set for 2007.

The Asheville HBA will be partnering with the Asheville Board of Realtors in forming REBIC, Real Estate and Building Industry Coalition. This is going to give us more representation on the legislative front. We have all seen this past year what happens if there are not enough of our voices in local government. The development of this coalition is not to bash or protest against local

officials, but to work with them in creating solutions that protect our mountains and our environment, while not making building cost prohibitive as it is a large portion of our local economy.

I am pleased to announce that we met our Build-Pac goal of \$2325.00. This goal was reached by contributions from less than 10% of our association membership. I would like to see us double this amount as well as the number of participants for the 2007 year. Through Build-Pac, 30% of the funds we raise are available for local use at the discretion of our AHBA.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for their financial support in past functions & activities. During 2007, we will begin our first year of the AHBA Foundation Club. Within the Foundation Club there are four levels of sponsorship which will give you access to particular events and advertising exposure throughout the year at various events, publications, and through our web-site. You will have different billing options of annually, semi-annually and quarterly. Hopefully, this will make budgeting for 2007 effortless.

I look forward to seeing a record breaking turnout at our first General Membership Meeting of the New Year, January 18th. The focus of this meeting is to provide an overview of benefits & means of involvement for you and your AHBA.