

Stephen N. Thomas Named Builder of the Year

Each year HBAV names as Builder of the Year one builder member who has gone above and beyond normal business enterprises to really exemplify a commitment to the industry and the community.

For 2009 President Rand Sompayrac and HBAV chose Steve Thomas of Stephen Thomas Corporation as Builder of the Year. Thomas, a Richmond builder and member of the Home Building Association of Richmond was chosen for his commitment to the adoption of

the Easy Living Home Program in Virginia.

Recognizing the need for a model of construction that provides accessible construction for both people living with disabilities and the aging population, Thomas was instrumental in the search and selection of a set of standards that promoted accessibility, visitability and the opportunity for homebuyers to age in place.

HBAV's selection of the Easy Living Home programs was the

direct result of Thomas' work. Thomas was the first Virginia builder to construct an Easy Living Home certified house, and is on the leading edge of innovative construction techniques that make accessible construction more affordable and fit into common styles of Virginia architecture.

Congratulations to Steve Thomas and thank you for bringing such a wonderful program to Virginia. For more information on the Easy Living Homes program visit www.elhomes.org.

House Caucuses Appoint Leaders

With one of the largest incumbent turnovers in recent history in the House of Delegates, the leadership of both parties will play an increasingly important role in policy decisions in 2010.

The leaders of both party caucuses are responsible for staying on top of important issues and communicating party positions to their members. Though there has been much turnover, much of the leadership will remain the same in both caucuses, easing the transition.

On the Republican side of the aisle there are new faces at the lower ranks, but the upper echelon will remain unchanged. The Republican Caucus voted by affirmation to reappoint Del. Bill Howell of Stafford as Speaker of the House. Other leaders include Morgan Griffith of Salem as Majority Chair, Sam Nixon of Chesterfield as Caucus Chair, and Kirk Cox of Colonial Heights as Majority Whip. The Speaker will have to be officially reappointed by a majority of the members of the House of Delegates at the beginning of the 2010 Session.

The Democratic Caucus has appointed Ward Armstrong of Henry as Minority Leader. Additionally they appointed Ken Plum of Fairfax Caucus Chairman, Jennifer McClellan of Richmond First Vice Chairwoman, David Englin of Alexandria as Second Vice Chairman, Mark Sickles of Fairfax as Secretary, Jeion Ward of Hampton as Treasurer, and Rosalyn Dance of Petersburg as Sergeant at Arms/Parliamentarian.

The all-important committee chairs and assignments have not been released yet.

HBAV Leaders Recognized at 2010 Installation Ceremony

In addition to Builder of the Year, each year the HBAV and its President select the Associate of the Year and the President's Award. This year these two awards went to members who have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to service to HBAV.

The Associate of the Year Award was given to Kevin DeChristopher of Mid-South Building Supply. DeChristopher

has served as HBAV Associate Vice President and has been a faithful sponsor of many HBAV events. Congratulations to Kevin and thank you Kevin for all of your hard work.

The Presidential Award was given to Robin Newhouse of Virginia Dominion Power. Robin was also installed as the 2010 Associate Vice President. Newhouse's list of awards and service at HBAV are too long to

list. She has served in multiple capacities at both HBAV and NAHB, and is a past recipient of both the Presidential Award and the Associate of the Year award. In addition to her duty as Associate Vice President of HBAV, Newhouse will also serve as Chairwoman of the NAHB Membership Committee in 2010. We extend our appreciation and congratulations to Robin Newhouse.