



PRESS RELEASE

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GAHBA Kicks Off 75th Anniversary; Installs New Officers



ATLANTA -- The Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association (GAHBA) kicked off its 75th anniversary and installed its newly elected officers and board members during the annual Installation & Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, January 15th, at the Omni Hotel at the Battery.

During the ceremony, Gabe Chatham, Vice President of Chathamilt Homes (pictured left), was installed as the 2020 GAHBA President, and was sworn in by his father, David Chatham, who served as President of the association in 1985 and is a past recipient of the GAHBA's prestigious Lewis Center Award for lifetime achievement in the industry.

The Chatham family has deep roots in the local home building industry. Gabe's grandfather, Howard Chatham, began building homes in 1948 in Buckhead. Since then, the company has built thousands of homes and developed hundreds of neighborhoods in the Atlanta area. Chathamilt Homes is now one of north Atlanta's most awarded real estate developers and builders. Gabe has dedicated time to the association in many capacities, most recently serving as the Membership Committee Chairman and North Fulton Chapter President.

In his speech on Wednesday night, he outlined his three main initiatives for 2020: raising the profile of the association, developing the next generation of trades and expanding the reach of the GAHBA education programs.

"As an association, we are a family. We are better together," said Chatham. "We need each other to succeed and be at our best. We encourage each other, we challenge each other and when we work together we win together."

In addition to installing the 2020 board members, the GAHBA's award winners for 2019 were also recognized during the ceremony:

[\(Click here to download pictures of each award winner\)](#)

Builder of the Year: Jim Chapman of Jim Chapman Communities

The Builder of the Year Award is presented each year to a member of the GAHBA who has both demonstrated a commitment to professional excellence while also making significant contributions to furthering the goals and mission of the association. Jim Chapman launched his first custom home building firm in 1998, then in 2005, shifted his focus from building single-family custom homes to developing and building 55 Plus active adult resort-style communities. Now Jim Chapman Communities is recognized as Atlanta's premier 55 Plus homebuilder. In 2019, he served as the Immediate Past President of the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association, Vice President/Treasurer of the Home Builders Association of Georgia, and the Vice Chairman of the NAHB Land Development Committee. He was named "2018 Builder of the Year" by HomeAid Atlanta.

Associate of the Year: Dave Morgan of Truist

The Associate of the Year Award is presented each year to a member for their accomplishments in the areas of service to the industry and association, professional excellence and community involvement, furthering the mission and goals of the association. Dave Morgan served as a board member for both the DeKalb/Rockdale Chapter and Cobb/Cherokee Chapter as well as being an active participant on the membership committee. He played a crucial role in the success of the GAHBA by getting other volunteers involved as well as providing sponsorships for various events.

Lewis Center Award: John Cooper of Cooper Homes

Established in 1984, the Lewis Center Award is the GAHBA's most prestigious award honoring an individual's lifetime achievements and their contributions to the advancement of the housing industry. This award is named in memory of one of the industry's icons – Mr. Lewis Center who was President of the Association in 1960 & the only member of the GAHBA to serve as President of the National Association of Home Builders. John Cooper has been a vital member of the association for over 20 years. He is a Past President of the association as well as a Life Director. He is a decorated OBIE Award winner and the recipient of the 2012 Builder of the Year Award. He served as the President of the DeKalb Chapter in 2009 and that same year was honored as the GAHBA's Chapter President of the Year. His company has been in operation for over 33 years, and during this period he has built a reputation of quality and value throughout the Metro Atlanta area. He is also proud to

be a Certified Professional Home Builder (CPHB) and member of the EarthCraft program.

Presidential Awards: Amy Buynoski, CenterState Bank Mortgage & John Royer of O'Kelley & Sorohan The Presidential Award is the only award presented at the discretion of the President, making it a special acknowledgement of an individual's commitment and service to the GAHBA and the home building industry. The first Presidential Award was presented to Amy Buynoski, a mortgage professional with over 20 years of experience in the industry. She served as Chairman of the Sales and Marketing Council and was the guiding force in creating the most successful OBIE Awards Program in recent years. There was record attendance in recent years with 700 guests and outstanding member engagement. The second Presidential Award winner was presented to John Royer. He has been involved with the HBA and SMC since moving to Atlanta, serving on the SMC board since 2012. He accepted the task of co-hosting the 2019 OBIE Awards and was a Corporate Sponsor during the year.

Council Chairman of the Year: Bradley Hall of Hall Design Build

The Council Chairman of the Year is presented for outstanding excellence and member service. The GAHBA has five active, dynamic councils that provide education and networking opportunities for several of the diverse special interests of its members. Bradley Hall led the Remodelers Council to be the fastest growing Remodelers Council in its class nationwide where it will be recognized at the International Builders Show. He cultivated a board of directors for the remodelers council that along with assistance from staff, held 2 successful education lunches, one very successful bowling tournament with over 80 participating, and 2 additional networking socials throughout the year. It experienced a 92% growth rate nearly doubling from where it began the year. He also was a HomeAid Project Leader for the kitchen repair project at Rainbow Village in April.

Chapter President of the Year: Steve Cash of Cash Homes

The Chapter President of the Year is presented for outstanding excellence and member service. There are currently seven chapters representing nine counties and the City of Atlanta that all provide educational and networking opportunities specific to those nine counties. Steve Cash served as the President of the Metro South Chapter. He also serves on the Home Builders Association of Georgia Board of Directors, as a B-PAC Trustee, and is an active member of the GAHBA Government Affairs Committee. Under his leadership, the Metro South Chapter held 4 very successful Chapter Lunches averaging 60 attendees per lunch with speakers such as the Mayors of local municipalities on the southside, County Commissioners, and economic updates from Eugene James. In addition, Steve Cash led a group of Metro South chapter members to participate in the HBAG Legislative Day at the Capital.

Spike Award Winner: Bill Lisecki of Adams Homes

The Spike Award is presented to the member who has the most recorded number of new members throughout the calendar year. Bill Lisecki recruited 12 new members to the Association during the year. His effort along with that of the membership committee and board members is what enabled the GAHBA to grow another 3.5% in 2019. Bill is entering his second year as President of the North Fulton Chapter.

Grand Sponsor: Atlanta's Best New Homes Show **Cocktail Sponsors:** Arrow Exterminators, Brand Vaughan Lumber, James Hardie **Supporting Sponsors:** 2 - 10 Home Buyers Warranty, Coastal States Bank, Comcast, Construction Resources, Cook and James, Engel & Volkers, Georgia Power, New American Funding, Norbord, Pella Window and Door of Georgia, Inc., Sutter, McClellan and Gilbreth.

About the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association

Founded in 1945, the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association (GAHBA) is a not-for-profit professional trade association dedicated to promoting, protecting and preserving the home building industry as a viable economic force in the Atlanta area. The GAHBA is one of more than 800 local home builder associations through the U.S. and is affiliated with the Home Builders Association of Georgia and the National Association of Home Builders. Members includes builders, remodelers and developers of all sizes, as well as trade contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, financial institutions, real estate companies, professional service providers and more. Visit www.AtlantaHomeBuilders.com for more information.

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