



799 White Pond Dr., Suite C
Akron, Ohio, 44320
P: 330.869.6800 | akronhba.com

Our Mission:
"Helping you BUILD your American dream"

HBA position statement on COVID-19 – March 16, 2020

Today we begin a new week during this unpredictable time. Like last week, it will be filled with market volatility, consumer uncertainty and employee unrest. Rather than focusing on the updates flashing across your phone, consider this quote from writer, poet & philosopher, Suzy Kassem:

"Life is no different than the weather. Not only is it unpredictable, but it shows us a new perspective of the world every day."

Take the challenge to find a new perspective in today's world for your business and the building industry. Share what you discover.

Like everyone, our biggest concern is for the safety and well-being of you, your families and our communities.

In response to Governor DeWine's order to cancel large gatherings, HBA's board of trustees voted to postpone last Thursday night's enVision awards event. A rescheduled date will be announced once it is safe to do so. Going forward all events and meetings scheduled through April 10 will be rescheduled or held remotely.

Unless otherwise mandated, the HBA offices will remain open with limited staff. During the near term, we will:

Focus on Employee Safety – With the shortage of trades, it is best to keep the trades that we have healthy, safe and on the job. We can help you access needed business information or safety equipment through our partnership with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Look for a Safety Council to start shortly after the ban on large gatherings is lifted.

Focus on Your Business – There is an opportunity to receive help from the Small Business Administration. As time passes, other financial forms of assistance will be available. We can connect you with the appropriate financial institution that will help you acquire needed funds.

Focus on the Industry – As our members adjust their business plans, we can offer current economic and industry information.

Outside these areas of focus, we are committed to:

- Offering the office as a place to stop, connect to Wi-Fi and do work. With a small staff, we have limited exposure. And the office is being wiped down regularly.
- Offering a non-public place to hold a meeting. As members, you are always welcome to use the small conference room or the HBA Conference Center. Our Conference Center has plenty of space to accommodate the 3' to 6' social distancing. For both rooms, we will wipe down the space before you arrive and upon your departure.

While this situation is not easy for any of us, we are fortunate our largest fundraiser, Akron Home & Garden Show, took place before the crisis. With other cancellations looming, we will use this time to focus on new and important ways to deliver on our core mission to provide economic growth, advance education and lead the building industry in Summit & Portage Counties.

We wish you the best through these challenging times.

Dan Enos, 2020 HBA President
(330) 734-7105
dan@danmarkconstruction.com

Lori Howerton, CEO
(330) 990-6787
lorih@akronhba.com