

# HOME BUILDER MAGAZINE

Join the  
Washburn Bandwagon



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*Washburn's flair for "green" technologies and products like Nudura insulated concrete forms demonstrates his approach to solving challenges.*

## A TOOLBOX FULL OF SKILLS

Steve Washburn feels he "is blessed with a very diverse skill set" that will help him as SAHBA Chairman. In addition to his deep technical building skills, he is proficient in marketing, public speaking, problem solving, negotiating and business management.

Here's a glance at his versatile toolbox:

### PROFESSIONAL

Owner: Washburn Custom Builders  
SAHBA Certified Custom Builder  
2006 Custom Home Pacesetter  
Innovation Award  
2006 SAHBA Custom Home Builder  
of the Year  
2008 SAHBA Parade of Homes Builder

### SAHBA

Chairman of the Board  
Executive Committee  
Technical Committee  
Political Action Committee  
Custom Builders Council Co-Chair  
NAHB National Director

### EDUCATION

University of Arizona: BA in Latin American Studies and Eller College certificate in International Business. Minors: Business Administration and Spanish.

American University: Various financial and taxation classes

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Hurricane Katrina relief construction  
Agua Prieta Family Shelters  
First Southern Christian School  
Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church  
Immaculate Heart Middle School  
Pusch Ridge Christian Academy  
Hogar Paz Y Bien Orphanage (Mexico)



# Washburn Thrives on Creative Problem Solving

Building custom homes on steep, rocky hillsides or in environmentally sensitive areas causes many complex challenges. It's an opportunity that Steve Washburn thrives on.

Through the years, he has built a reputation for mastering unique design and construction challenges... with a splash of "green" thrown in.

His "can do" attitude impacted the Association in 2006 when he was named Custom Builder of the Year. The word spread quickly about his skills in transforming tricky lots into environmentally compatible homes.

His desert-sensitive designs incorporated energy efficiency and cutting-edge technology. To no surprise, his passion for green building matched the interests of his clients.

Innovative problem solving took him "outside the box" to offer clients products such as insulated concrete forms and on-demand solar hot water heaters.

In many ways, he will apply that same style of critical thinking and creative problem solving during his term as 2009 Chairman of the Board.

"Our strength is in our numbers. Collectively, we can make a difference, but it all depends on member involvement," he said. "I hope to facilitate that, to shepherd members if you will, to use the power of SAHBA to help them solve problems."



*Washburn was recruited to SAHBA by Life Director Bill Valenzuela, who told Steve it was the key to building his business. Bill's words of encouragement were: "Join, and you can build your business the same way."*

*Washburn is comfortable whether he's working with his tradespeople at job sites or in Washington, D.C. for SAHBA.*



Washburn is convinced that greater involvement will result in more victories. For example, when an important issue comes up, members need to rely on committees and staff.

Then, “dozens and dozens of voices will raise up together instead of the vocal few.” Members who look to the organization’s “infrastructure and process can empower themselves,” he said.

Among the critical issues of 2009 are water supplies to new developments. Is Tucson Water a regional water provider or does the water belong exclusively to the City? Is annexation for water a good public policy?

Last year, City Hall tightened up its policies to deny water to new developments outside its existing service area. For builders and developers, it raised questions about managing growth by limiting water. Future plans for thousands of homes around the City’s fringes are at stake.

Other issues on Washburn’s list include: CAP water, impact fees, economic recovery, appraisals to assure closings, NAHB BuildPAC, regulatory balance, ROC relations, and tort reform.

As The Community Builder, Washburn views SAHBA as “a piece of infrastructure.” SAHBA is “the tool” to impact the economy, provide jobs for citizens, and shape public policy.

“That infrastructure was not built overnight. It took years for Ed and Staff to get us to where we are today. They have the core knowledge to help members address these problems and to market through the Home Show. They are the core foundation that members need to plug into,” said Washburn.

“My approach always has been to look at all the options. SAHBA Staff has the talent and experience to do that,” he added. “Then, we can move forward with everyone’s best interests in mind.”

That will take a united effort.

“This is the organization you’ve hitched your wagon to. If you don’t participate, how do you expect to get anything out of it?”



*Regarding issues, Washburn wants more members to participate, to “use the power of SAHBA.”*



*Wife Jeanette, as a company owner, participates alongside her husband in many SAHBA and community events.*