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Rick Hjelm to Lead BIAW in 2019

Rick Hjelm, owner of Phase II General Contractor, Inc., is the new President of the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) for 2019. Hjelm will begin serving his term January 1.

Throughout the year, Hjelm will represent home builders, advocating on the major issues they face in their local areas as well as across the state, including water availability, skilled labor shortages and a lack of developable land for home building, among other issues.

“Rick Hjelm brings extensive experience working on issues impacting our industry as well as strong leadership skills, making him an outstanding choice as president of our association. His ability to bring people together and move ideas forward is critical as builders across our state face even greater pressures from rising materials and increased regulatory barriers that impact the ability to build housing that is affordable for working families,” said BIAW Executive Vice President Greg Lane. “President Hjelm will be focused on bringing attention to these issues over the next year.”

Involved in the home building industry for more than two decades, Hjelm has held numerous leadership roles with the Master Builders Association of Pierce County (MBAPC) and BIAW.

Hjelm has served twice as president for the MBAPC and chaired several committees and councils including the Remodelers Council, Education Committee and Festival of Trees as well as actively participating in many others. He’s been a strong supporter of building new membership in his local association and BIAW and has been active in bringing in new members.

At the state level, Hjelm has served as chair of the BIAW Legislative Policy Committee, Local Association Presidents Council, Education Committee and Remodelers Council and participated on the Washington Affordable Housing Council as well as a National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) director for BIAW.

In addition to serving the home building industry, his involvement extends to volunteering for community projects in Pierce County, including Mary Bridge Festival of Trees and Rebuilding Together South Sound. His service also goes beyond the state of Washington where he was selected by the Department of Agriculture to travel through Japan giving seminars on how to switch from building to remodeling.

Hjelm was installed as President at the BIAW Fall board of directors meeting Nov. 14, 2018, at Hilton Vancouver Washington. In addition to Hjelm, other BIAW officers installed for 2019 include: First Vice President Sherry Schwab of HCS Construction Services Company; Second Vice President Chris Lockhart of AAA Kartak Glass & Closet; Treasurer Tracy Doriot of Doriot Construction; Secretary LouAnne Neill of Banner Bank; and Immediate Past President Kevin Russell of Kevin Russell Construction.

Known as the “champion of affordable housing,” the Building Industry Association of Washington is the largest trade association in Washington State and represents nearly 8,000 member companies involved in the home building business.

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