



President's Message

Vincent Calvosa

It would like to begin my message by thanking the LIBI members for allowing me to represent them as their President for 2023 and by acknowledging my fellow Officers, Chairman Steven Krieger, Vice-President Martin Dettling, Treasurer Anthony Bartone and new to the ladder, our Secretary Jon Weiss. Outgoing Chairman Jim Coughlan is a pillar in the industry, and it was a privilege to be “climbing the ladder” with him. It has been an honor to work with these outstanding members of our industry, and I look forward to this year being filled with many successes under their leadership. I would also like to welcome our new CEO, Mike Florio. I am confident that Operations Director Lois Fricke will lead us to even bigger and better things going forward and strive for the continued success of LIBI.

I have been a member of the Long Island Builders Institute since 1996, first as an Associate member and then becoming a builder, and I have seen many ups and downs in our industry and our organization. I have built homes for charity, been active in numerous Committees & Councils, and have worked with many Presidents in the past 27 years as a member, and I feel this has set me up perfectly to be the voice of LIBI during my tenure.

My goals for this year are to create an atmosphere of camaraderie and to re-unite and pull together all of our members as an organization. ALL members are valuable, and a LIBI membership is a valuable piece in the toolbox of our member companies.

LIBI is, first and foremost, a lobbying organization, but without the support of our members, we are nothing. I would like to strengthen our PAC (Political Action Committee) to be a tremendous voice in the industry, and to do so, we need to educate our members about what PAC is and does and why we need them to be heard. Our PAC does routine screenings as needed to allow our members the opportunity to hear what our candidates have to say and make an educated choice in whom they want to support or not support.

I will be working closely with our Membership Chairman, Jon Weiss, and Co-Chairs Debbie Davey and Anthony Confredo to introduce 5 new Committees to help our members get more involved, as we know involvement is crucial to your success in LIBI. 2023 will see a continuation of our very popular Women in LIBI committee chaired by Jen Devito, Gina Farese, Debbie Davey, and Tonya Lewter-Gordon. This committee was formed to empower the women who are members or who work for members through education and networking.

New for 2023 will be:

- The Young Professionals Committee headed up by Paolo Pironi and Gina Farese, this committee will focus on mentoring and helping to build a benchmark for the future of the building industry.
- East End Committee will be focused on issues affecting the East End of Long Island and help to expand our membership base to the East End and recruit members that work there.
- Remodelers Committee chaired by Caleb Haniquet, Gina Farese, and Kurt Smith, focusing on issues that our Remodeler members face.
- Education, we are bringing LIBRERI back to life, which is the educational aspect of LIBI that was put on hiatus for a few years, but we are bringing it back to provide much-needed educational opportunities to our membership, from OSHA course, blueprint reading, project management and estimating, just to name a few that we hope to bring to the table.

I look forward to working with Anthony Bartone as LIBI Treasurer this year to help strengthen LIBI's finances through our many events during the year, offering individual sponsorships for events or the Yearly Corporate Sponsorship Packages. There is no lack of opportunities to get involved and market your company to the membership and support the organization as a bonus.

We will continue to work for our big builders through our legislative agendas that include; good cause eviction and prevailing wage laws. We will continue to be a voice in these and many other issues to achieve the best outcome for our members.

We will still be addressing the Oyster Bay issues that are plaguing our single-family builders. This is an ongoing battle that we are meeting with officials to come to a resolution that doesn't hurt our "smaller" guys. We are also advocating to streamline the building permit process on Long Island.

An important goal I am devoted to is ensuring our Associate Members get a fair shot at builder projects. I will stress to our builders the importance of using LIBI members, treating them with the respect they deserve, and ensuring they are given a fair shot at working for them. Our 2023 Associate VP Keith McNamara and Rob Cartelli, as Associate Council President, and I will be working closely to ensure our associates get the respect they deserve as members of this organization.

In closing, I want to extend a big thank you to Jen Fricke for really pulling through when we were so short-staffed. The LIBI office didn't miss a beat, and it was due to their hard work and diligence to always put the members first. I want to welcome our newest addition to the staff, Administrative Assistant Toni Ann Sorrentino. I would be remiss if I didn't thank our Bookkeeper Ann Hinds for her many years of professionalism and care in the handling of the LIBI books and the additional support of Erica Scoma.

Sincerely,
Vincent Calvosa
President