

## **“RAISING THE BAR”**

On December 9<sup>th</sup> the North Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors (NC-ASHI) conducted the first ever formal Peer Review Program here in Winston-Salem as part of our continuing efforts to improve the quality of Home Inspections.

The program consists of candidates for the I.B.R. designation (*Inspector By Review*<sup>®</sup>) inspecting a project house and then presenting their home inspection findings to a committee of three of their peers. The committee members (eight inspectors total) inspect the house at the beginning of the program and develop a list of “must find” defects that each candidate must identify during their presentation. Candidates must also complete an oral exam and present two previous inspection reports to the committee for proof of Standards compliance.

This program was developed by the Great Lakes Chapter of ASHI fifteen years ago and has proven to be a very effective tool for improving and educating Home Inspectors. Several of our local members including Bill Dillon, Andy Hilton, Marion Peeples, and John Woodmansee attended the program at the Great Lakes Chapter to evaluate it and learn how it works, and then brought the program home to North Carolina. Andy Hilton served as Peer Review Chairman and contributed many hours of preparation and organization work.

The NC-ASHI<sup>®</sup> Chapter would like to recognize Cathy Bailey of Prudential Carolina Realty for providing us with the project house from her inventory of listings; and for then generously donating the proceeds to Christmas charities for school children.

Over 25 seasoned Home Inspectors from around the state participated and all felt that they had improved their inspection skills as a result. Additional hands-on educational sessions were conducted for newer Home inspectors and for Realtors<sup>®</sup> who wanted to experience a Home Inspection through the inspector’s eyes.

NC-ASHI intends to continue and expand the program with two or three Peer Review sessions each year in different parts of the State. As always, we will include an opportunity for Realtors<sup>®</sup> to participate and learn along with us. Watch for the next session near you.