



COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION  
CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER

December 9, 2013

### **Big Walnut Schools Receive \$5,000 Gift From NAIOP Central Ohio**

(Sunbury – Dec. 9, 2013) - Continuing a holiday tradition, NAIOP Central Ohio donated \$5,000 to the Big Walnut Local School District at a Dec. 9 meeting of the Board of Education.

Each year, the Central Ohio chapter of NAIOP makes a donation to a non-profit organization on behalf of the outgoing president. This year's president Andy Wecker chose the parent teacher organizations of the Big Walnut elementary schools, including Harrison Street, and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Intermediate School.

"As a member of the Big Walnut Board of Education, I know that Big Walnut and Delaware County are a great place for people who want to make, fix, raise and grow things," Wecker, an attorney at Manos, Martin & Pergram in Delaware, said. "Our families and schools are a big part of that, and this gift from NAIOP to our PTOs is one way to recognize our community spirit."

NAIOP, the National Association for Industrial and Commercial Properties, was founded in 1967, and one of the key leaders in that effort was Jack O'Neill of Southgate Corporation from Newark/Heath Licking Co., Ohio. It has evolved into one of North America's largest, most prestigious and valuable commercial real estate organizations. In Central Ohio, its members include Continental Real Estate, Columbus 2020, the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, the Daimler Group, Exxcel Project Management, NP Limited Partnership, the Pizzuti Companies and ProLogis.

In 2014, Wecker will be succeeded as chapter president by another Big Walnut resident, Richard Schuen, CEO and Principal at Colliers International in Columbus. In the Big Walnut area, Schuen's office has worked with Chip Carpenter Real Estate and Auction Company to redevelop a vacant shopping center with Washington Auto Parts and Hardware.

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Throughout Ohio, Colliers works on a full range of industrial, office, commercial and retail projects.

"By developing, building, owning and leasing commercial real estate, NAIOP members work to house Ohio's businesses and their employees," Schuen said. "Our buildings are the homes for their opportunities and when these businesses are successful, they add to the real estate tax base that pays for public education and lightens the burden on homeowners," Schuen said.

Previous gifts made in honor of other presidents have been made to:

- Mount Aloysius, a home for special needs men, and its charity fundraiser, Mt. Al's Round-Up (Franz Geiger, 2012 President / NP Limited Partnership);
- Nationwide Children's Hospital (Andy Weeks, 2011 President / VanTrust Real Estate, LLC);
- Flying Horse Farms (Dwight McCabe, 2010 President / The McCabe Companies);
- Habitat for Humanity; and
- The Fisher Real Estate Society at The Ohio State University.

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