

REMODELER SPOTLIGHT

Capital Region Builders Association (CRBA)



KEVIN STABLIER | CRBA Remodelers Board

NorthLake Design + Build

What company do you work for and what is your job description?

I work for NorthLake Design + Build and am the Chief Designer and builder.

How long have you been a CRBA remodeler and why did you choose to join?

Since June 2017. I joined because there are lots of contractors out there, but I wanted to become associated with a group of professionals known for our contributions of excellence within this industry and dedication to our community.

What makes CRBA important to you?

The level of support I can contribute to peers within the organization and the support I get from mentors within CRBA. I feel more connected to the industry and to the community at large.

How has CRBA aided in the way you do business?

I've gained better insight regarding trends in the industry and access to outstanding local vendors who have proven to uphold a high standard of quality craftsmanship that matches my business model.

Why do you believe it is important for other businesses to join CRBA?

There are so many businesses within the construction industry. With the high demand in our area, I think project owners want to do business with people they can trust will bring a high level of professionalism and CRBA brings that to the table.

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What is your most notable memory while being involved with CRBA?

I was recruited for a small project at the CRBA office when they wanted to clear out old cabinets for more space in the conference room. My friend and fellow CRBA member recruited me for the project. While I showed up as scheduled, he came in about three hours late when the rest of us were finishing up. It's always fun giving him a hard time about bamboozling me into doing all the work. The truth is, he unloaded his tools and it really was a pleasure working with him on the project for a purpose that benefits us all.

While being a remodeler, what has been one thing you have learned and been able to apply to your job?

When I started with CRBA, I had a small one-man operation with great subcontractors. I'm still known for small operation, but being with the organization reinforced the importance of great connections. My business is in a growth stage right now, but I Wouldn't be realizing the growth without great people on my team. I realized the need to expand on that within my company through being involved with CRBA.

What has your CRBA membership meant to you both personally and professionally?

Although the Baton Rouge area is my hometown, I was away for several years. I actually started in the building industry sixteen years ago while in the D.C. area, then I started my business on the Northshore near Covington later on. Relocation can be challenging personally and professionally, but moving back home to Baton Rouge was smooth for me. I've continued to contribute a large part of that to being involved with CRBA. I've met some wonderful men and women who truly want to help you succeed and they make time to do just that, which makes me glad to be home.

What would you recommend to a new CRBA remodeler to make the most of their membership?

Get involved! Don't stop once your dues are paid. Get plugged in. Whatever you can give in terms of time will come back to you tenfold.

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How have you been able to impact the community while being involved with CRBA?

We've helped restore a lot of peace of mind in the community by helping people rebuild following the Great Flood of 2016. Each contractor has their own specialty to contribute. With such a high demand for remodels in the area, no single remodeler is the right fit for every job. However, being part of such a great community of builders in CRBA, it becomes possible to refer out with confidence as well as accept referrals from other contractors. Through the relationships we have in affiliation to CRBA, we don't have to turn anyone away who may be in need.

What is your favorite tip for someone working in the same industry?

Be transparent with people. The construction business has lots of moving parts and we strive daily to minimize interruption to those parts. Just like any business with many variables, things don't come off perfect 100 percent of the time. However, I've found that if you work every day to provide great service, then the small hiccups remain less. Transparency is key to success on all sides of the contracting business.

Have you received any awards? Tell us all about it!

Happy clients are my reward and we have a lot of them. At the end of the day, we are remodeling and building spaces where people are going to live, work, raise their families and make memories. Architecture has a profound impact on an individual's quality of life. When people are excited about their space, whether at home or a business, I know that I've made a difference. Being able to do that is enough recognition for me.

What are your hobbies outside of work?

I am one with the outdoors! I love fishing as I spent lots of time on the water growing up. I also love spending time with my family and wood work. The smell of antique heart pine, the feel of old cypress and the way these things touch a space when re-purposed bring me a profound sense of connection to both the past and present. The best part of all is being able to do these things with my children and to teach them something valuable, whether on the water or in the wood shop.

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What motivates you?

Sharing my talents with others and connecting with people in that way. Whether I'm teaching my children how to create something amazing, resurrecting a family home or creating a new one, those things give me purpose. I think our individual talents are meant to be shared and be the string that ties us all together. I've had great mentors in my life and it's a privilege to be in a position where I can mentor others now.

What is a typical day like for you?

Nothing happens without coffee first, so it's brewing and I have my first cup before it's daylight. I check the weather, emails and whatever else. The day moves in this business and you have to be able to adapt, because there's rarely a dull moment. Some days I design, others I'm in the field checking on subcontractors. There are days where I'm meeting with clients, ordering materials and sometimes even having to wear the marketing hat. Of course when my children have ball games, orchestra and even homework, I have those moments too. Days are busy, but I make time to recharge, so I can always give my all.

What are the top three things on your bucket list?

A trip to Italy first, then other destinations throughout Europe. A weekend getaway somewhere with clear blue water and white sand would be great. I also want to travel from South Florida to Havana by private vessel, then spend the day like I live there.

Where are you originally from?

Great question and I have a two-part answer. I'm originally from Central Baton Rouge, then my family moved to the D.C. area when I was in middle school. I actually started my building career in Northern Virginia, so I claim the area having spent 10 years there where I built lifelong friendships. I've been in Louisiana since 2006 and am excited to be planted back home in good ol' Baton Rouge.