

# MEET THE OFFICERS

An official publication of the Builders League of South Jersey

*“A job goes home at night: But where”*

**Richard S. Van Osten**  
**Executive Vice President**  
**Builders League of South Jersey**



**T**he Builders League of South Jersey is a housing industry trade association of firms that are committed to providing all the state’s residents with safe and healthful housing.

With more than 20 years experience in the industry, Richard S. Van Osten has served as the Executive Vice President of the Builders League since 1999. He is also the Treasurer of the Builders League’s Scholarship Foundation and Charitable Foundation. Prior to that, he served as the League’s Director of Member Services and Treasurer of the South Jersey Builders Political Action Committee.

Under his direction, the Association strives to promote balanced solutions for solving New Jersey’s housing crisis while planning for preservation, environmental protection and economic growth.

Mr. Van Osten often explains to business leaders that New Jersey has 1.3 million acres in its network of open space and farmland preservation (That’s about 2,031 square miles). One third of the state is already developed. A portion of the remaining lands can’t be developed, due to environmental constraints or land use restrictions. What’s left has to meet all our future needs. That’s why it’s important to balance growth and preservation plans on the remaining undeveloped lands.

“The state’s decisions makers – every one from the governor and legislature to our local planning and zoning boards – must remember that a job goes home at night: But where,” Van Osten explains. “To maintain a healthy economy in the future, New Jersey must balance business growth and a variety of new housing with environmental protection and open space.”

Under his guidance, the League has expanded its Strategic Plan to implement programs that strengthen the membership including member services, business development, communications, legislative outreach, political action, advocacy campaigns, public relations and media relations, educational opportunities, programs for school children, charitable efforts, scholarships for students, leadership development and home ownership. Membership in the Builders League has grown to nearly 670 firms.

Mr. Van Osten is a Business Administration graduate of Rutgers University and a member of the American Society of Association Executives. He lives in Mount Laurel with his wife Mary and three children.

The Builders League, which is comprised of firms from Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Cape May and Atlantic counties, is an affiliate of the New Jersey Builders Association and the National Association of Home Builders.

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