



Blake Kazama from Tlingit-Haida Regional HA accepts the Advocate of the Year Award.

## First Annual Advocacy Awards

A decent, safe, and affordable place to live is such an important factor in helping individuals and families to build successful and fulfilling lives that it must not be left to chance or the uncertainties of the marketplace. Children of families who are homeless, who live in ramshackle, unsafe, and unsanitary housing may go on to succeed in life, but the odds are against them when risk factors are considered.

NAHRO and its members have known this for decades and have advocated for adequate funding with which to build and sustain affordable housing and strong, viable communities. These efforts have begun to pay dividends, and both our society and our elected officials are beginning to connect affordable housing with the economic development and viability of our communities. NAHRO has two awards at the national level by which it recognizes individuals and organizations whose advocacy contributes to affordable housing. These are the Mary K. Nenno Award and the Local & State Legislator or Other Elected Official Advocate Award. In 2009, Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire was one of the individuals to receive recognition in the latter category.

PNRC-NAHRO believes that outstanding advocacy efforts should be acknowledged at the regional level as well, and in 2008, it created the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## PNRC-NAHRO and AWAHA Join with Comprehensive Health Education Foundation to Promote the Health of Affordable Housing Residents



Comprehensive Health Education Foundation, or CHEF, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help people and communities improve the quality of their lives through health education. CHEF believes that everyone deserves an equal opportunity for health and is committed to advancing the health and well-being of people most affected by health inequities. Many of the people with whom CHEF is concerned are low-income and are the same clientele served by housing authorities. CHEF specializes in bringing a variety of partners together to address and eliminate health inequities.

Tacoma Housing Authority is currently working with CHEF on its *Salishan Shine* project to promote healthy eating and physical activity at the Salishan HOPE VI development. Specific objectives include a Community Kitchen for nutrition education and community gardens. The Vancouver Housing Authority is working in partnership with CHEF on its “Fresh Ideas for a Healthy Community” to promote physical exercise and healthy eating at VHA’s Skyline Crest community.

Earlier this year, CHEF approached the Association of Washington Housing Authorities and PNRC-NAHRO with two additional project proposals, both of which involve government grants. The first grant would promote healthy eating and physical activity among public housing residents in Washington State. Obesity prevention, promotion of best practices, and the presentation of a technology-based conference for 100 participants comprised of housing authority staff, residents, public health representatives and community leaders are grant objectives.

The second grant, from the Washington State Department of Health, is for the creation of a “Tobacco Prevention and Control Network” and would be implemented over two years. The work under the grant would establish a network whose goal is to curb smoking, to develop tobacco free environments for public housing, promote resistance to tobacco industry marketing, and bring partners together to effect systems change. PNRC will be a sub-contractor in this grant.

PNRC-NAHRO agency members will be hearing more about both of these grants in the coming months since we will need housing authority partners to successfully complete the work plans. To learn more about the Comprehensive Health Education Foundation, go to their website at [www.chef.org](http://www.chef.org). □



# Message from the Executive Director...

Dear Fellow Housing & CD Professionals:

I have often heard it said that “it is better to be lucky than good,” but the truth of the matter is that we need to make our own “luck.” Luck has two components: **Preparedness & Opportunity**.

If we are prepared, then when opportunity comes along, we are ready to take action that will move us closer to our vision. As a result of the nation’s need to “jump start” our stalled economy, HUD is distributing federal dollars to agencies that have demonstrated an ability to spend them quickly. Those agencies were “prepared” and along came the “opportunity,” enabling them to implement long-postponed development and modernization projects.

The new majority in Congress makes it likely that more funding for programs that Housing & CD professionals have advocated for over the years may be on their way. Advocacy and preparedness are clearly related. A number of qualified people from the Pacific Northwest have been selected for important positions of national leadership including former King Co. Executive Ron Sims (now Deputy Secretary of HUD), and that may mean even more “opportunities.”

At the regional NAHRO level, PNRC was concerned about how the downturn of the economy would affect our 2009 Conference in Boise, not because of participation by our member agencies, but because of the effects of the economy on exhibitors and corporate sponsors. While we didn’t quite have a full house as far as exhibitors were concerned, 8 out of 19 were **new** partners. Similarly, we lost three large sponsors to the economic downturn, but we **added five smaller contributors**. So although our total exhibitor and sponsor revenue was down a bit, we forged new relationships with a larger number of exhibitors and sponsors who may be with us in future years. Sometimes opportunities come in unexpected packages.

Part of preparation is having a staff that is as experienced and skilled as possible. PNRC-NAHRO is committed to providing the professional development programs that our members need to take advantage of pending opportunities. (See related article in this issue.) If you don’t see the training that you need from us, you only have to let us know what you need and we will try to provide it.

Winston Churchill once said, *“To every person there comes a time in life, that special moment, when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing.... What a tragedy if that moment finds them unprepared or unqualified for the work which would be their finest hour.”* Could this be your agency’s “finest hour?” Are you prepared to be lucky?

Sincerely,

Ron Oldham  
PNRC-NAHRO Executive Director

# First Annual Advocacy Awards

(Continued from page 1)

Advocate of the Year Awards for individuals and agencies. For 2009, three Awards were presented.

## Dr. Blake Kazama, Ph.D.

Dr. Kazama is a long time leader and advocate for Indian Housing Programs in his position of Chief Executive Officer of the Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority in Juneau, Alaska. Dr. Kazama's work has made a huge difference in the lives of clients in Southeast Alaska and for Indian Housing Authorities throughout the country as he has fought for funding and wise policies by the federal government.



Lisa Cipollone-Walters accepts her award.



The award for the Seattle HA is accepted by Andrew Lofton, Deputy E.D.

## Lisa Cipollone-Walters

Ms. Cipollone-Walters is the Director of Housing Advocacy & Rental Assistance Programs for the Seattle Housing Authority. She has been extremely active at both Washington State and the Federal levels tracking and analyzing legislation affecting housing authorities. She has conducted advocacy training sessions for both AWA and NAHRO and has served on NAHRO's Housing America committee. At Seattle Housing Authority, Ms. Cipollone-Walters has worked to make SHA's advocacy efforts more focused and systematic.

## Seattle Housing Authority

SHA was this year's only agency recognized for its advocacy work. SHA's goals included promoting an increased awareness on the part of staff and residents of the importance of our various legislative bodies. SHA did this with printed outreach through *The Voice* newspaper, a landlord bulletin for Housing Choice Voucher landlords, *Building Community*, SHA's e-mail newsletter, and *The Porchlight Insider*, an e-mail newsletter to non-profits, advocates, and service providers. SHA also promoted resident involvement in Housing America and Housing Advocacy Day in Olympia.

Information about how you can nominate an individual or agency for PNRC-NAHRO Advocate of the Year can be found at PNRC's website ([www.pnrcnahro.org](http://www.pnrcnahro.org)). Nominations for 2010 Awards will be due in March, 2010. See the later editions of the *PNRC News* or the website for further information.

PNRC-NAHRO has also developed an Advocacy Manual and Workshop that can be presented to interested agencies and groups. For further information, contact Ron Oldham at 206-901-0330 or [RONALDLOLDHAM@MSN.COM](mailto:RONALDLOLDHAM@MSN.COM). □



## Housing Washington Conference Coming this September!

More than 800 people involved in all sectors of affordable housing will gather at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual affordable housing conference taking place September 29 & 30 at the Tacoma Convention and Trade Center. Attendees will explore "Change" and what is necessary to provide sustainable and affordable housing for the homeless, low-income wage earners, service workers, young families, the elderly, disabled or specially-challenged people and others in need.

The conference presents new and stimulating ideas, policy debates, hands-on workshops, and many opportunities to confer and partner with those involved in affordable housing. Gain a wide variety of information from more than 50 lenders, architects, public agencies, nonprofit developers and service providers at their booths in the Exhibitor Showcase. Learn from over 70 presenters, including the keynote speakers:

**Donna Brazile** is an American author, educator and one of today's finest commentators. Brazile has been tracking change since her political career began at the age of nine.

**Michelle Kaufmann** is a forward-thinking, earth-conscious architect who has made a career by promoting change as well as clean and simple living.

**Melissa Harris-Lacewell** is an American writer and political scientist as well as an Associate Professor of Politics and African American studies at Princeton University; Harris-Lacewell has provided commentary for NBC News, Fox News, Showtime, HBO, Black Enterprise, National Public Radio and many other print and radio organizations.

Conference highlights include a VIP Networking Reception with Exhibitors and the 26<sup>th</sup> annual *Friend of Housing* awards. For more information visit [www.wshfc.org/conf](http://www.wshfc.org/conf). Sponsorship, exhibit space and scholarships are still available. Online and mail registration opens in July. □



## PNRC-NAHRO Scholarships Awarded in Boise

PNRC-NAHRO announced its 2009 Scholarship winners on May 5th at the Annual Conference in Boise. Each year, PNRC-NAHRO advertises the availability of five college and continuing education scholarships to residents of its members affordable housing programs. Applicants are screened by member agencies, by Chapters, and by a Regional Jury with winners named each spring at the Annual Conference. The 2009 scholarships and their winners are:

**Jesse Epstein Scholarship** - \$10,000 for a graduating high school senior attending a 4-year college program of study awarded to the highest ranked Challenge College Scholarship applicant. **Mariam Wahed from the Housing Authority & Community Services Agency of Lane County (OR) was this year's Epstein Scholarship winner.** Ms. Wahed will receive \$2,500 per year paid to the college of her choice.

**Challenge College Scholarships** - Two \$4,000 scholarships for graduating high school seniors attending a 4-year college program of study. **Maria Tulloch from the King County Housing Authority and Neama Said from the Seattle Housing Authority** were this year's Challenge College Scholarship winners.

**Continuing Education Scholarship** - A \$4,000 scholarship awarded to an individual who has been out of high school for at least four years and wishes to pursue either a college education or other professional training. **Jackie Jones from the Jackson County Housing Authority (OR)** received the Continuing Education Scholarship.

**Community College Scholarship** - A \$2,000 scholarship awarded to a graduating high school senior attending a 2-year community college program of study. **Rosa Granados from the Walla Walla Housing Authority** was the 2009 Community College Scholarship winner.

Each winner also receives a \$250 one-time scholarship from their housing authority for their first year of school. With the award of the 2009 scholarships, PNRC-NAHRO will have given out 58 scholarships since 1993 worth \$163,000. The schedule for the 2010 scholarships will be announced in the August issue of the *PNRC News*. □

### 2009 Scholarship Recipients



Mariam Wahed, candidate from the Housing Authority & Community Services Agency (HACSA) of Lane County, Oregon, was the winner of the Jesse Epstein Scholarship.



Maria Tulloch, from the King County Housing Authority, was awarded one of the Challenge Scholarships.



Neama Said, from the Seattle Housing Authority, was the recipient of the second Challenge Scholarship of 2009.



Jackie Jones, from the Jackson County Housing Authority (OR), was awarded the Continuing Education Scholarship.



Rosa Granados, from the Walla Walla Housing Authority, won the Community College Scholarship.



Proud Sponsor

2009 Jesse Epstein Scholarship



We believe in the mission to provide education  
and affordable housing.

**Welcome To My World!**

*The New Standard in PHA Software*

**What you want... How you want it.™**

The Mitas Group, Inc.  
1575 Heritage Drive, Suite 300  
McKinney, TX 75069

866.659.4503

## Photos from Boise May 4-6, 2009

In past years we have tried to summarize the “goings on” at our Annual Conferences in an article. But, remembering that a picture is worth a 1000 words, here’s some photographic reporting on our recent event at the Boise Centre.



Auctioneer Andy Rodriguez and Sunny Shaw auction off “Baseball” by Sharon Jewell.



PNRC Executive Board member Art Noll and other conference attendees get serious in a break-out session.



Vice President for Commissioners Jo Brewer & Longview H.A.’s Tom Drake present “Understanding Operations for Commissioners.”



Jason Casterline presents his annual Financial Update seminar in Boise.

***Did we miss you in 2009? Don't miss us in 2010!  
Watch [www.pnrcnahro.org](http://www.pnrcnahro.org) for updates on the next Annual Conference!***



The Mariachi Juvenil De Mi Tierra plays during the Exhibitor's Reception.



NAHRO Executive Director Saul Ramirez presents "A Washington, D.C. Update."



NAHRO President Renee Rooker and Executive Director Saul Ramirez get started early at the continental breakfast.



Yardi Systems' Jay McWhinney discusses software with a conference attendee.



Saul Ramirez, Maggie LaMont, and Renee Rooker present NAHRO's Commissioners' Certifications to Bev Mathena, Jo Brewer, Floyd Bankson, and Dave Newville.



## 2009 PRAIS Awards & President's Award Announced in Boise

Each year, PNRC-NAHRO selects our regional PRAIS Awards winners from NAHRO's Awards of Merit applicants. There were six awards to four agencies this year which are listed below:

### Program Innovation – Affordable Housing

Bay Vista Commons Assisted Living Community  
(Bremerton Housing Authority)

### Administrative Innovation

Central Application Center (King County Housing Authority)

### Program Innovation – Community Revitalization

Village Quarter (Yamhill County Housing Authority)

### Program Innovation – Resident & Client Services

Ready to Rent (Bremerton Housing Authority)

### Project Design – Modernization/Rehabilitation

Cornerstone Courtyard (Spokane Housing Authority)

### Project Design – New Project

Nia Apartments (King County Housing Authority)

### 2009 President's Award

Pam Thompson, Director of Finance at NE Oregon Housing Authority in La Grande, OR has served on the PNRC-NAHRO Executive Board for several terms each as Secretary and most recently as VP for Member Services. She is currently on the NAHRO Board of Credentialing Trustees and the Member Services Committee. As VP of Member Services for PNRC, Pam has had primary responsibility for our Scholarship Awards and for the NAHRO Awards of Merit and PRAIS Awards judging. All of this has amounted to hundreds of hours of travel and coordinating over the years, and it has been in addition to her regular and dedicated work at her housing authority. Pam is one of those persons without whom it would be impossible to do the business of our association.

Following this year's presentation of the PRAIS Awards done by Pam at the Awards Breakfast on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Boise, she sat down while President Maggie LaMont got up to present the 2009 President's Award. As Maggie talked about the qualifications of this year's winner, it gradually became apparent that Pam was this year's recipient. It was obvious from the expression on her face that it had been a secret well-kept. PNRC-NAHRO offers its congratulations to Pam Thompson, our 2009 President's Award winner! □



Bay Vista Commons Assisted Living Community, Bremerton Housing Authority



Cornerstone Courtyard, Spokane Housing Authority



Nia Apartments, King County Housing Authority

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle works with community financial institutions in eight western states and three Pacific territories to support affordable housing and economic development.

#### We offer:

- Grants for affordable housing, both rental and homeownership
- Downpayment assistance to first-time homebuyers
- Reduced-rate loans for affordable housing and economic development

Visit our website to learn more about our community investment programs or to locate a Seattle Bank member institution in your area.

**Federal Home Loan Bank Seattle**

1501 Fourth Avenue, Ste. 1800  
Seattle, WA 98101-1693  
www.fhlbsea.com



## No-Smoking Policies: Trends and Tools for Housing Authorities

There is growing momentum among housing authorities to adopt no-smoking policies; this is providing smokers another good reason to quit. Many are working with local public health

officials in the process. A new website, [www.smokefreehousinginfo.com](http://www.smokefreehousinginfo.com) is available with tools for housing authorities and other landlords to move ahead.

NAHRO recently demonstrated their support for smokefree policies by honoring Nampa Housing Authority with a 2009 Award of Merit for the adoption and implementation of the first 100% smoke-free policy by an Idaho housing authority and for being the first 100% smoke-free housing authority in the entire Northwest U.S.

Nampa Housing Authority's no-smoking policy, adopted October 2008 (142 units, 9 sites) included a 90-day transition period for smokers. As of January 1, 2009, smoking is prohibited inside and outside within 20 feet of entrances. Andy Rodriguez, Executive Director, said, "I knew doing this would be a financial savings but I was worried about people moving out. No one moved out because of the policy."

He went on to say, "The most helpful thing we did was to partner with our local health district. They helped us conduct a resident survey so that we weren't making assumptions about behaviors and attitudes towards smoking. We also partnered with them in providing cessation resources that were offered free of charge. One resident quit smoking as a result." As for staff reaction, Rodriguez said, "Three out of four people on our maintenance team were smoking before the policy went into effect. As a result of their not being able to smoke in the shop or in the units they were readying, they all quit smoking. They helped each other quit."

In January 2009, Clatsop County Housing Authority in Astoria, Oregon adopted a no-smoking policy for all of its 104 units (14 buildings/4 properties.) The policy prohibits smoking inside and 10 feet from entryways. Kathy Lucas, Executive Director said, "In one senior and disabled building, a few tenants came up and thanked me for making it smokefree because they wanted to quit smoking. Then they quit -- out of 12 smokers in that building, only three are still smoking."

The Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) will implement a no-smoking policy for its public housing units (1993 units/37 properties) in August. The new rule prohibits smoking inside

units and common areas and outside within 10 ft of the buildings including patios, porches and balconies. They intend to implement the same policy for their affordable properties (3760 units) next summer. Dianne Quast, Director of Real Estate Operations, revealed their process at the recent PNRC Conference in Boise. "What made the decision for me was when I finally understood that secondhand smoke was a Class A carcinogen, in the same category with asbestos. We are going to so much trouble and expense with asbestos abatement and we were just letting people smoke. It didn't make sense."

HAP collaborated with local public health experts to conduct their tenant survey, facilitate resident meetings to discuss the policy, and provide training sessions for onsite managers to make them comfortable in implementing the policy and linking smokers to cessation resources. HAP has generously shared their detailed steps and the documents they developed during their process -- all are available at [www.smokefreehousinginfo.com](http://www.smokefreehousinginfo.com).

For support in adopting no-smoking policies, contact your local health department or in:

### Oregon:

[www.smokefreehousinginfo.com](http://www.smokefreehousinginfo.com) -  
[diane.laughter@comcast.net](mailto:diane.laughter@comcast.net)

### Washington:

[www.smokefreewashington.com](http://www.smokefreewashington.com) - [paul.davis@doh.wa.gov](mailto:paul.davis@doh.wa.gov)

### Idaho:

[www.projectfilter.org](http://www.projectfilter.org) - [smartid@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:smartid@dhw.idaho.gov)

*This article is submitted by Diane Laughter, Health In Sight LLC for the Oregon Smokefree Housing Project, a program of the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program* □

### **Advantages of a Smokefree Housing Policy**

**Buildings may be able to attract more tenants by going smoke free. Research shows that many renters want smokefree housing.**

**Cleaning costs are lower when you don't have to scrub, paint, and replace items in an apartment that smell like smoke or are covered in residue.**

**Fewer fire risks! Smokefree housing eliminates the source of smoking-related fires. Some insurance companies may even provide reduced premium rates to buildings that are smokefree.**

**All tenants, guests, and staff members are protected from the risks associated with secondhand smoke exposure.**

# Recognizing extraordinary efforts



Achieving great things in any community takes courage, vision, and tremendous effort. What each of us does can make life better for everyone.

**PNRC – NAHRO, you are appreciated and admired every day.**

[wellsfargo.com](http://wellsfargo.com)

© 2009 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.  
All rights reserved. Member FDIC.  
(122926\_13274)

Together we'll go far





**Professional Development in 2009 at PNRC**  
**Or...What Does Your Staff Need for Your Agency to Get Lucky?**

PNRC's Professional Development (PD) training schedule for 2009 will be a full one. In addition to the great PD opportunities at the May conference in Boise which included Jason Casterline's annual Financial Update and NAHRO's Uniform Physical Conditions Standards (UPCS), Ron Oldham recently completed Commissioners' Fundamentals in Tacoma June 5-6th.

NAHRO's Procurement & Contracts two and a half day seminar will be held at the Vancouver H.A. June 17-19<sup>th</sup> with Bill Thorson presenting.

Just before the NAHRO Summer Conference in Portland on July 13-14th, Dennis Morgan will present at HCV Homeownership training at the Housing Authority of Portland's New Columbia Education Center. The registration for this training is only \$95 thanks to HUD sponsorship.

Arrangements are currently being worked out for the following professional development sessions:

- NAHRO's Capital Fund in Tacoma (August 20-21)
- Commissioners' Fundamentals in Kelso/Longview WA (August 2009)
- Commissioners' Fundamentals in Spokane (August 2009)
- Ethics for Commissioners in Boise (August 2009)

Other sessions being discussed as to location and date, include:

- Fair Housing & Reasonable Accommodations workshops (1 day)
- PNRC-NAHRO's Advocacy Workshop
- Leadership & Strategic Planning for Commissioners
- Skills for Supervisors (Dr. Larry Iverson)
- Smart Energy Usage
- HCV Occupancy

Contact Ron Oldham at 206-901-0330 or [RONALDLOLDHAM@MSN.COM](mailto:RONALDLOLDHAM@MSN.COM) for further information or to request a specific professional development training in your area. □



To see this newsletter in color, go to [www.pnrcnahro.org](http://www.pnrcnahro.org) and click on June Newsletter.



When your Housing Authority uses affiliates or a Non Profit partner agency, ORWACA insurance agency can assist with your insurance needs. ORWACA was created to be of service to you!

ORWACA has access to Social Service insurance providers, offering Professional Executive Risk insurance products and general property & casualty coverage. We have access to bonding markets for unique situations when surety is required.

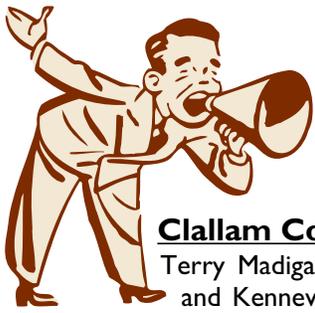
The following examples serve as a reference; if something you need is not listed, please call as we may be able to help you with options.

**ORWACA SERVICES GUIDE**

- Homeless Shelters & Transitional Housing Programs
  - Private Non Profit operations & City/County funded operations
- Community Mental Health providers that include housing solutions
- Most service providers in your Housing Authority buildings
- Directors and Officers Insurance for Independent Non Profit Boards related to housing
- Professional Liability (E&O) Miscellaneous Professions (i.e. serving debt counsel, how to prepare for buying a home)
- Flood and Earthquake for any building – “flood & quake” are excluded coverages
- DIC – Difference in Conditions (Broadens Property forms)
- Builder's Risk – for property in the course of construction (with theft of building materials)
- Tax Credit & Non Profit Housing: “Large Portfolios” – “One for Ones” – “Blanket Programs”
- Policies for Property and General Liability for affiliates & partner non profits
- Employment Practices Liability (monoline product policy)
- Bonding – Surety/Notary/Bid & Performance/Miscellaneous Bonds
- Fund Raising or Special Event Policies
- Lead Based Paint Professional Liability for many types of Housing Inspectors (Lead Based Paint Inspectors' E&O is excluded in base policy)
- Tenant Discrimination
- Boiler & Machinery/Equipment Breakdown
- Underground Storage Tank Liability & other pollution related coverage

*Just ask – Solutions & options are a phone call away!*

TEL: (360) 574-9035 • FAX: (360) 574-9401 • 7111 NE 179<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
 VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON 98686-1888  
 WEBSITE: [WWW.HARRP.COM](http://WWW.HARRP.COM)



## News from Around the Region

### Clallam County Housing Authority

Terry Madigan, formerly of the Bremerton H.A. and Kennewick H.A. before he left to work at the East Hartford (CT) H.A. has returned to the Pacific Northwest. Madigan started his work as Capital Planner for the Clallam County H.A. effective May 22, 2009.

### Everett Housing Authority – Bud Alkire

Housing Hope, an affordable housing and services agency held its signature fundraising event, “Stone Soup” on May 14 in Everett WA. Bud Alkire, Executive Director of the Everett H.A. received one of three awards presented at the event in recognition of the impact on Housing Hope’s success over the past 22 years and in 2008-09. Bud was awarded the “Housing Hero Award” given in recognition of affordable housing advocacy and dedicated effort setting an example for and inspiring the rest of the community. The recognition included Bud’s willingness to partner with other housing agencies, his integrity, and dedication to quality housing for his community.

### In Memoriam

The Pacific Northwest has recently lost two Executive Directors from its ranks. In February, Gayle Sieler, Executive Director of the Kalama Housing Authority passed away from a heart attack in her home at Castle Rock, WA.

In the first week of June, Paul Colbert, former Executive Director of Skagit County Housing Authority died from cancer in Oregon. Paul had also served as Executive Director of the North Bend/Coos-Curry Housing Authorities in Oregon for a number of years. Both Gayle and Paul will be missed by their many friends and associates.

The new Executive Director of the Kalama Housing Authority is Patricia Oliver. Gustavo Ramos, formerly of the Clark County (NV) Housing Authority is the new Skagit County Housing Authority Executive Director.

### Seattle Housing Authority

Two changes at the Seattle Housing Authority’s Board of Commissioners are worthy of mention. Yusuf Cabdi has been elected Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Cabdi, a resident of SHA, has resided in this country since 2003 and is originally from Somalia. Executive Director Tom Tierney noted that it is uncommon for a resident commissioner to be elected as a chair of the board of commissioners and that Cabdi will bring an important perspective to the leadership of SHA’s Board.

City of Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels has appointed Heyward Watson to succeed Katie Hong on SHA’s Board of

Commissioners. Watson is the CEO of Impact Capital, an organization that works to build healthy communities by providing financing for real estate projects. He is also the former Director of Fannie Mae’s Washington State Partnership Office and Director of Homeownership Programs for the Washington State Housing Finance Commission.

High Point, one of Seattle Housing Authority’s HOPE VI communities, features 60 rental homes specially designed to house families with members who suffer from asthma and respiratory illnesses. These “Breathe-Easy” homes are designed to minimize symptoms and enhance health. They are the result of collaboration among residents, health researchers, architects, and builders to address the asthma epidemic prevalent among low-income children. Children living in the first 35 homes completed were tested before they moved in and then one year later. In their former homes, which contained many triggers for asthma symptoms, children experienced an average of 7.6 symptom-free days every two weeks. After living in the Breathe-Easy homes, they were symptom-free 12.4 days out of 14, a 65% improvement! The special features that contributed to this improvement included positive pressure ventilation systems, linoleum flooring, low or no off-gas trim and mill work and cabinets, HEPA filter vacuums, “walk-off” doormats, and landscaping designed to reduce pollen.

### King County Housing Authority

King County Housing Authority has purchased a 32-unit multi-family apartment complex in Tukwila, WA that will be used to house chronically homeless individuals with serious mental health issues. On-site supportive services will be provided by two experienced mental health agencies that are part of the King County Regional Support Network. Pacific Court will house approximately 50 individuals whose rents will be subsidized with public housing subsidies that have been inactive since conversion of the former Springwood Apartments to a Section 8 Project Based – Tax Credit property. All candidates for occupancy will come from referrals from the two mental health agencies rather than KCHA’s waiting list. Management will be by KCHA’s staff at the nearby Riverton Terrace development.

### Bremerton Housing Authority

Bremerton H.A. reports the receipt of four significant grants in the first quarter of 2009: \$45,885 in a FSS grant to help residents move to self-sufficiency; \$1.4 million from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to go for Westpark redevelopment and capital improvements at Tara Heights; \$136,450 for the Supportive Housing Program in partnership with Kitsap Community Resources (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance funds); and \$240,000 from a ROSS Coordinator Grant which will fund an additional position in the CSS division for three years. □

**Building Smart. Building Green.  
Building Community.**



**WALSH**  
Construction Co.

[www.walshconstructionco.com](http://www.walshconstructionco.com)



Sterling is glad we could help support the  
**Regional Housing Authority Conference.**  
We have knowledgeable bankers to help you with all your business needs. Call and talk to one today.

[sterlingsavingsbank.com](http://sterlingsavingsbank.com)

Diane Sellers  
VP, Deposit  
Relationship Sales Manager



(206) 344-6008

*now more than ever*

MEMBER FDIC  EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

## Foster Pepper PLLC

A Pacific Northwest law firm providing finance and other advice to housing authorities, nonprofits and other entities devoted to low- and moderate-income housing.

- Build America Bonds
- Employment and Labor
- Fair Housing
- HOPE VI and Mixed Finance Projects
- Intergovernmental Agreements
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credits
- Multi-Family Housing Bonds — Conduit and Government Purpose
- New Markets Tax Credits
- Procurement and Contracting
- Public Disclosure Issues
- Real Estate and Land Use
- Single-Family Housing
- State Tax Issues

We are pleased to provide ongoing support to PNRC-NAHRO and its members

WHEN IT HAPPENS, WE ARE THERE.

[WWW.FOSTER.COM](http://WWW.FOSTER.COM)



# NAHRO's *Mission...*

The purpose of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) is to be the leading housing and community development advocate for the provision of adequate and affordable housing and strong, viable communities for all Americans, particularly those with low- and moderate-incomes, and to enhance the professional development and effectiveness of NAHRO's members.

## Inside this edition of **PNRC News**:

First Annual Advocacy Awards .....	1
PNRC & AWAH Join with Comprehensive Health Education Foundation to Promote Health of Affordable Housing Residents .....	1
Message from the Executive Director .....	2
Housing Washington Conference Coming this September! .....	3
PNRC-NAHRO Scholarships Awarded in Boise .....	4
Photos from Boise .....	6
2009 PRAIS Awards & President's Award Announced in Boise .....	8
No-Smoking Policies: Trends & Tools for Housing Authorities .....	9
Professional Development in 2009 at PNRC .....	11
News from Around the Region .....	12

To see this newsletter in color, go to [www.pnrcnahro.org](http://www.pnrcnahro.org) and click on June Newsletter.



**Pacific Northwest Regional Council**  
C/O 10832 – 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
Seattle, WA 98146-1731

PRSR.T.STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 873

