

# NAHRO NEWS

## **Sharon Scudder Receives the Elmer Whitepipe Award of Excellence**

South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA) is pleased to announce Sharon Scudder as the recipient of the annual *Elmer Whitepipe Award of Excellence* during SDHDA's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Housing Conference held recently in Pierre.

Ms. Scudder was honored for her outstanding dedication and commitment to affordable rental housing in South Dakota. She is the Executive Director of Meade County Housing and Redevelopment Commission in Sturgis.

"For 45 years, Sharon has dedicated excellence in the field of housing and exemplifies the professionalism, commitment, and caring in the industry we want to recognize with this award," says Vona Johnson, Director of Rental Housing Management. "We are proud to highlight Sharon's distinguished career and provide her with the *Elmer Whitepipe Award of Excellence*."

Ms. Scudder works with a variety of rental housing programs including: Section 8 Project Based Assistance, Housing Choice Vouchers, Public Housing, HUD's VASH Program for homeless veterans, USDA Rural Development and the Governor's House program. She has also held many leadership positions with the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) both at the local and National level.



In conjunction with her distinguished career, Scudder has also contributed her time and talents to the City of Sturgis, Meals on Wheels, the Back Hills Council of Governments, VFW, Kiwanis, Zonta club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, the local Community Action Program and Women of Melody.

The *Elmer Whitepipe Award of Excellence* recognizes individuals and/or companies who are instrumental in providing affordable rental housing in the asset management or compliance industry in South Dakota and who exemplify the thoughtful, caring and friendly character of the award's namesake. Annually, SDHDA accepts nominations for the award and announces the recipient at the annual housing conference. (Article courtesy of SDHDA)







## 2013 ND/SD NAHRO Conference – A ROCK SOLID Success!

Aberdeen, SD, the Dakota Event Center, and Aberdeen PHA served as hosts to the 2013 joint conference, ROCK SOLID, enjoyed by sponsors, exhibitors, and nearly one hundred attendees. Held September 18-19, the conference offered a variety of sessions oriented to public housing, Section 8, and maintenance. Informative and inspiring general sessions rounded out the program; and the two NAHRO state chapters also conducted their annual business during the conference. Great food, sponsor giveaways, and a well-stocked hospitality room Tuesday and Wednesday evenings kept things hopping!

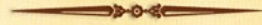
The program was wide-ranging. Jonathan Zimmerman, an old friend of SD NAHRO from the national staff, was on hand with “the latest” in Section 8. Green PNA, establishing smoke free housing, multi-family housing, RAD, elevator maintenance, audit and accounting, were some of the session topics offered during the full two-day event. A unique poverty simulation activity presented by GROW helped open some eyes by taking participants from a provider role, to that of a consumer.

The traditional joint conference of ND/SD NAHRO will not be held in 2014. The Mountain Plains NAHRO annual conference will take its place, hosted by the two Dakota NAHRO chapters. The Lodge in Deadwood, SD, will be the site for next year’s regional event, scheduled for June 16-18, 2014.



# **SD NAHRO CONDUCTS ANNUAL MEETING**

## **Officers Re-elected**



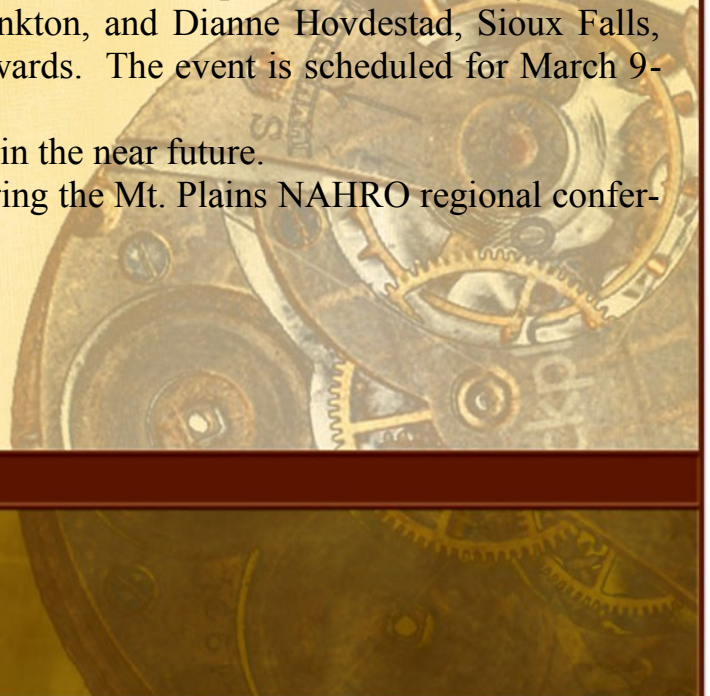
SD NAHRO held its annual meeting on September 19, 2013. There was a quorum present. The membership held an election; and it took action on two significant budgeting items. Bryan Samson, Aberdeen, chair of the Nominating Committee, conducted the election of officers. With no new candidates nominated for office, a unanimous ballot was cast to re-elect the following: John Stengle, Pierre, chapter president; Tammy Frost, Mitchell, vice-president; Jody Zueger, Aberdeen, secretary; and Lori Hoppe, Sturgis, treasurer. These officers will serve a two year term, through October of 2015. They will also comprise the Executive Committee of SD NAHRO. Sherry Scudder, SD chapter past president, will continue to serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

In recognition of the high cost of travel in assuming obligatory duties to regional and national NAHRO as state chapter president, the body raised the potential reimbursement to defray some of those expenses, from two to five thousand dollars.

The group discussed the importance of legislative advocacy through NAHRO, as part of the annual Washington, D.C. Hill visits during NAHRO's annual legislative conference. With the high cost in attending the event, coupled with budget constraints brought about by sequester and other factors, a committee was formed to develop a scholarship program to financially assist members to attend the 2014 Washington, D.C. conference. The body acted to set aside up to five thousand dollars to aid one or more persons to attend. Eligible to apply for a scholarship were those who have never attended that conference, or had in the past but can no longer afford to do so. Sherry Scudder, Sturgis, Ann Horton, Yankton, and Dianne Hovdestad, Sioux Falls, will develop the application criteria and make the awards. The event is scheduled for March 9-12, 2014.

Interested? Information will be forthcoming by mail in the near future.

SD NAHRO will hold its next annual meeting during the Mt. Plains NAHRO regional conference in June, 2014 in Deadwood, SD.







## **SD NAHRO REPRESENTED AT 2013 NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

A small but active contingent of SD NAHRO leaders participated in organization meetings and national NAHRO conference held October 23-26, 2013 at the Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland, Ohio. The theme of the conference was “What’s Next... .... Promoting Our Vision for the Industry”. One of the many aspects surrounding conference week are the various committees and task forces made up of NAHRO leaders from across the United States, that shape the advocacy and the direction of the national organization. SD NAHRO is represented on various committees: Commissioners; Membership Services; Professional Development; Emerging Leaders; Housing; and Legislative Network. SD NAHRO is represented as members of the Small Agency Task Force. SD NAHRO leadership also serves on the national NAHRO Board of Governors, and the Board of Directors of Mountain Plains NAHRO. Participation requires travel to conference site a day or two ahead so that the organization can conduct its important business; and the business of NAHRO is a serious matter. The friendships and contacts gained by this participation, however, and the knowledge shared both at the table and away from it, is invaluable back home in South Dakota. That’s why our SD NAHRO leaders believe the commitment is worth it.

The conference itself, as always, brought fun and excitement for the more than one thousand in attendance. There were dozens of spot on general and plenary sessions to attend, social events, and good old fashioned conversation opportunities with old friends and new friends made. Always a highlight at the national event is the opening of the exhibits, as dozens of vendors demonstrate their products and services, while luring the attendees into their booths with offers of “free stuff.” Vendors not only assist financially in making the conference a success, they provide an up close and personal experience in demonstrating “the latest” in goods and services in the public housing industry.

The 2014 National Conference and Exhibition is scheduled for October 14-16 in Baltimore, MD. Please consider attending – join us in making NAHRO better.