It seems just like yesterday that we gathered in San Antonio, TX for our 2012 training conference and now it’s time for all of us to mark our calendars for the 2013 conference. Under the leadership of our vice-president, Janice Deshais, the planning committee continues to work every day with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Office of Administrative Hearings to finalize the schedule of workshops and social activities. We have applied for CLE credit in Minnesota and believe our course offerings this year will be eligible for CLE approval in other states.

We will assemble at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in the state capital of St. Paul, MN from Sunday, September 15 through Wednesday, September 18. The twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul straddle both sides of the upper Mississippi River and offer a wide array of cultural and recreational venues during your leisure time.

NAHO maintains its healthy financial status with 300 regular and associate members across the country and the Virgin Islands. Our vice-president directs the conference planning activities, our secretary maintains our records, our interim treasure automated many of our transactions and keeps our financial records in order for the external auditors, and the board of directors and its multiple committees conduct all of the other operational and administrative activities year-round including our popular certification program and library of DVD’s for all members to rent in order to fulfill some of the credit requirements.

At the annual membership meeting on Tuesday afternoon, September 17, you will be asked to approve proposed changes to the by-laws, the minutes from the 2012 meeting and the annual financial report. Of equal importance you will also be asked to ratify the results of the summer balloting to elect officers and directors for another two years.

NAHO exists for the benefit of its members and proudly serves administrative hearing officials nationwide as well as all who participate in our annual conferences.

Be sure to visit NAHO’s attractive website at www.naho.org for details about the 2013 conference, how to book a room at the hotel, how to register for the conference and select your courses, how to get from the airport to the hotel and read about all that the Minneapolis/St. Paul area has to offer to its visitors.

Thank you for your continued support of NAHO and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Norman J. Patenaude, President
Official NAHO Products Available at 2013 Conference

Toni Boone (NV)

NAHO offers a variety of items for purchase, at nominal prices, branded with NAHO’s logo. As it would be impractical, if not impossible, to carry a large inventory of items from conference to conference each year, NAHO members will again be able to place an order to obtain apparel and other items embroidered with NAHO’s logo at the upcoming conference in St. Paul. Among the apparel items available for order are polo shirts, button-collar shirts, sweatshirts and fleece vests and jackets in a wide variety of colors and sizes.

NAHO will also be offering a sturdy woven computer case with a zipper closure. Both the apparel and the computer case will have the NAHO logo embroidered on them and embroidered personalization (name, initials and/or agency) will be available for an additional charge.

The 2012 conference in San Antonio was the first occasion for NAHO to offer a souvenir conference t-shirt. It was a very popular item and quickly sold out. We will again have a custom-designed t-shirt commemorating our 2013 St. Paul conference available for immediate purchase at the conference. This colorful t-shirt will have a design unique to our conference destination and would make a wonderful souvenir of your trip to the Twin Cities area.

Pins with NAHO’s logo, suitable for your collar or lapel, will also be available for immediate purchase at the conference.

Scholarships Available for 2013 Professional Development Conference

Toni Boone (NV)

The NAHO Board of Directors has authorized a limited number of scholarships to NAHO members to attend the 2013 Professional Development Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota, September 15-18, 2013. These NAHO scholarships cover the total conference registration fee and all meals that are a part of the conference. NAHO scholarships do not cover travel and lodging expenses. Applicants for the NAHO scholarships must be members in good standing of NAHO.

The National Judicial College is also offering two scholarships to attend NAHO’s upcoming conference. The NJC scholarships will cover one half of the conference registration fee and all meals that are a part of the conference. NJC scholarships do not cover travel and lodging expenses. In order to apply for an NJC-sponsored scholarship to attend NAHO’s upcoming conference, you must be an alumnus of the National Judicial College in addition to being a member in good standing of NAHO.

Specific criteria can be found in the conference brochure.

Toni Boone, Administrative Law Judge
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CERTIFICATION

Linda Snow (TX)

The NAHO Certification Committee consists of Barbara Ann Macdonald (TX), Kayla Adams (TX), co-chair Ramona Collingsworth (TX), and lead co-chair Linda Snow (TX). In February 2013, the committee issued eighteen renewal notices to individuals whose certifications will expire December 31, 2013. As of June 1, 2013, the Certification Committee received twenty-one applications for initial certification and two recertification applications for review by the committee and presentation to the NAHO Board Members at the monthly board meeting. In addition, the committee responded to inquiries about the certification program, completed pre-cursory application reviews, worked with the NAHO Vice-President to assign course classifications for the upcoming annual conference in St. Paul, MN.

The NAHO Certification Committee relies on the ethics of the applicant when determining whether a Hearing Officer or Administrative Law Judge meets the requirements for certification. When submitting an application for certification, be sure to consider the number of hours needed for each subject area to be the “minimum” number of hours you should list on the application. By listing additional hours in the subject areas, you save time for both yourself and the NAHO Certification Committee when a particular course does not meet certification requirements. If you listed additional hours, the committee can review those courses and would not need to contact you for more information. Remember, you can use up to sixteen hours of NAHO videos to meet the certification requirements.

Individuals seeking certification or recertification recognition at the 2013 professional development conference in St. Paul should submit complete applications postmarked by June 30, 2013. For applicants wishing to receive certification or recertification for calendar year 2013, the application deadline is December 31, 2013. For detailed information about certification program requirements, application forms, fees, and committee contacts, review the Certification section at www.naho.org/certification-program.
NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION TO THE NAHO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bonny Fetch (ND)

It is time to elect a new Board of Directors to serve a two-year term from January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2015. There are nine elected positions, President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer (combined position), and 6 Regional Representatives. The Board also includes three non-elected positions, Immediate Past-President, and two at-large members appointed by the President and approved by the Board.

The Board downsized from 22 to 12 positions beginning with the upcoming 2014-2015 term. Board members serve as volunteers. Board members may recoup out of pocket expenses or partial expenses, but there is no remuneration for a Board member's time. The Board meets monthly via teleconference call, and annually in person a day or two before the Annual Professional Development Conference. Board members are expected to serve on committees and assist at the annual conference.

All NAHO members nominated for an elected office must be members in good standing. Associate members are not eligible to vote or serve on the Board. A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms in any office.

If you are interested in nominating someone or running for the Board, please note:

1) The NAHO Nominating Committee has set a deadline of July 1, 2013 for submitting nominations. A member may nominate another member or submit their own name. If a member nominates someone else, the Committee will contact that person to ascertain their interest in running for the position. Anyone not willing to run will not be placed on the ballot.

2) Candidates for President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer may be from any Geographical location. Candidates for Regional Representatives must be from the regions they represent. The regions are:


   Central - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

   Southeast - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

   Southwest - Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.


   Mountain - Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

3) Nominations must include the nominee's name and a brief biographical sketch (not more than 12 lines, single-spaced), and must be received by Bonny Fetch, Chairperson, at the email address below, no later than 5:00 p.m. CT on July 1, 2013.

Ballots will be mailed to NAHO members by July 31, 2013. Pursuant to NAHO By-Laws, ballots must be returned to the Nominating Committee Chairperson and postmarked no later than August 16, 2013. The Nominating Committee will open and canvas the ballots within 10 days and report and certify the results to the President. The newly elected Board members will be installed at this year's conference in St. Paul, MN, in September 2013.

If you have additional questions about NAHO ELECTION 2013, contact a member of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee members are:

   • Andrea Lee, Member
     Andrea.lee@workcomp.virginia.gov

   • Eric Moody, Member
     Eric.Moody@itd.idaho.gov

   • Bonny Fetch, Chairperson
     bfetch@bis.midco.net

MAKING YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The deadline to receive the conference rate for your hotel room is August 23, 2013. All conference participants must contact the Crowne Plaza Plaza St. Paul Riverfront either by on-line reservation located at www.cpstpaul.com and entering H2X as the group code. You may also contact the hotel by telephone at (651) 292-1900 or toll free at (877) 859-5095 to reserve your room; you may identify yourself as part of the NAHO group or use the group code.

You will need to provide a credit card number to guarantee your room. The hotel cancellation policy for all reservations is 24 hours prior to arrival or the room will be billed to your credit card number. Please reference the group code to receive the federal per diem rate of $121.00, plus local and state taxes for Minnesota. This rate will be available from September 12, 2013 to September 21, 2013. The NAHO room block at this rate is limited, so please make your reservations early!

SuperShuttle

SuperShuttle is offering a discount rate for NAHO Conference attendees of $13.00 one way or $22.00 roundtrip, with a fuel surcharge of either 10% or $1.00. SuperShuttle also has a van which seats up to 10 people at a rate of $80.00 or a sedan for $50.00. To make a reservation, go to http://groups.supershuttle.com/vsp.html. For more information, call 1-800 BLUE VAN.
CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Conference to Feature Fun, Food and Food-for-Thought

(Janice Deshais, CT)

The 2013 Conference would not be a complete experience without special NAHO events designed to inform, entertain, and provide time to get to know other attendees, who are hearing officials, instructors, and others from across the country. This is the “social calendar” of featured special events and entertainment.

FUN

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15

Minnesota Twins Baseball – Fans of America’s favorite pastime will have a chance to attend an afternoon Minnesota Twins baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Target Field in downtown Minneapolis. The Twins, an exciting American League team, will likely be in the race for the Central Division title and September is a great time for baseball. A chartered handicapped accessible bus will take 50 ticket-holders off to an afternoon of fun. Details on tickets and transportation are outlined in the 2013 Conference Brochure, coming online soon at www.naho.org.

Mall of America – Fans of America’s other favorite pastime will be able to board a bus at the hotel on Sunday afternoon for a trip to the famous Mall of America for shopping, dining, and even rides in an indoor amusement park! The Mall of America features more than 520 stores, and 50 restaurants. There is also no sales tax on clothing or shoes! See the Registration Form, soon to be online at www.naho.org for details on signing up for transportation to this shopping mecca.

FOOD-FOR-THOUGHT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16

Luncheon – NAHO is honored to welcome Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie Gildea as our featured luncheon speaker on Monday in the Capitol ballroom. Your registration includes this luncheon and guests may attend at rates announced in the Conference Brochure. The Chief Justice will discuss the special partnership between the state courts and tribunals in the Executive Branch in guaranteeing due process and the effective administration of justice.

The 2013 NAHO Professional Development Conference will be held from September 15th to September 18th in lovely St. Paul, Minnesota. The location will be at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul-Riverfront. The hotel is situated on the Mississippi River and conveniently located in downtown St. Paul Minnesota. 85% of the rooms in this 22-floor facility have a view of the Mississippi River from the west, south or east. Located one level below the lobby, the hotel’s state-of-the-art conference facilities are all located on this one floor and are accessible by either escalator or elevator. The hotel consistently receives compliments for having a courteous, helpful and hospitable staff and clean and comfortable rooms. The conference planners have visited the hotel and have just raved about the cheerful and helpful service of the staff. The hotel is within walking distance of the Science Museum of Minnesota, Ordway Theatre, RiverCentre and the Xcel Energy Arena. The Mall of America, the Metrodome and the MSP International Airport are located within a short fifteen minute drive.

The hotel offers a wonderful 24-hour very well equipped fitness center, an indoor pool and whirlpool. There is also the full service Restaurant 11 for pizza and martinis, and the Port of Call Lounge. Full instructions on registering for hotel accommodations are provided in this newsletter, “Making Your Hotel Reservations” and also in the Conference Brochure. You will enjoy this site for the 2013 Annual National Association of Hearing Officials Professional Development Conference.

CROWNE PLAZA ST. PAUL - RIVERFRONT

Andrea Boardman (CT)
MEMBER’S SON ACHIEVES HIGH HONOR

Andrea Boardman (CT)

Marcelo Vincent (Vince) is a familiar NAHO member. Vince served on the NAHO Board of Directors for four years until 2009 as a Regional Representative and as an Alternate Regional Representative. He has also been certified as a Certified Hearing Official with NAHO. His son Shane Jonathan Vincent earned the high honor of becoming a Sentinel of The Old Guard and guarded the Tomb of the Unknowns, at Arlington National Cemetery for 25 months. Set on a hillside adjacent to Fort Meyer, an Army post, a visit to Arlington National Cemetery is not an experience one will forget. One Soldier from World War I, World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War were laid to rest at this memorial. The Vietnam Veteran was later identified through DNA evidence and was since buried in his hometown, and this grave now lies empty.

The tomb has been guarded twenty-four hours a day, three hundred and sixty five days per year since 1937. In an impressive ceremony, the Tomb Sentinel crosses a 63-foot walkway, taking 21 steps. He will then face the tomb for twenty-one seconds and walk back. The count of 21 symbolizes the highest ceremonial military salute. Old Guard Soldiers are inspected each day as part of the changing of the guard ceremony, and are impeccably groomed and dressed. Its been said that an Old Guard Soldier is held to a higher standard and when he moves on to another unit, he stands out because of his intelligence and uniform appearance standards. The standards of the new unit rise as a result of their new addition. Old Guard Soldiers must score high on an aptitude test. Shane is the only Wyoming resident to have received the Tomb Guard Identification Badge. His badge number is 588. He guarded the Tomb for 23 hours during the recent and devastating Hurricane Sandy. Shane Jonathan Vincent is currently serving at his post in Fort Carson, Colorado.

Marcelo Vincent has an interesting geographic history. He was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and grew up in Hollywood, California. Perhaps he began the history of family service to this country as he served in the United States Air Force from 1975 through 1979.

He graduated from Casper College with an Associates degree in Law Enforcement and went on to graduate from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration of Justice. Vince is also an alumnus of the National Judicial College and earned a “Certificate in Judicial Development Administrative Law Adjudication Skills”. The majority of hearings that Vince holds are related to unemployment benefit issues, although he holds some regarding employment chargeability issues with respect to unemployment taxes and a few pertain to claims for unpaid wages. Vince is reaching a landmark as he’ll be issuing his 10,000 th. decision in June of 2013.

Vince has reason to be proud of all of his children. His daughter, Toni carried on the rich family tradition and serves in the Army National Guard, where she does journalistic work. Toni earned a degree from Casper College and attends the University of Wyoming. Toni was deployed to Cuba for a year from 2010 to 2011. She worked out of Guantanamo Bay and wrote for “The Wire”, the Joint Task Force weekly periodical and left as the editor. Vince’s daughter Danna graduated from Casper College and the University of Wyoming with honors in teaching and mathematics. Vince’s son, Adam is the first of the family to graduate from high school, with the exception of Vince’s mother, who attained her high school diploma while attending night school in her fifties. The other family members all earned GEDs. Two children Alexandra 12 and Nicholas 10 are both Principal Honor Roll students.

Vince met his wife, Cathy shortly after beginning to work with the State of Wyoming and she has been with the Department for 27 years. She is currently working as a lead Unemployment Insurance Claims Taker. She has also worked with Quality Control and Interstate Claims as part of her history with the Department. Vince will tell you that his family makes him proud every day. Congratulations on all of your family’s high achievements, Vince!

This writer thanks Jim Gerl for bringing Shane Jonathan Vincent’s achievements to her attention and Marcelo Vincent for his assistance with writing this article.
Twin Cities Conference Takes Two Tracks

Janice Deshais (CT)

NAHO members and others who have attended past conferences have asked for sessions that specifically target new hearing officials and others that focus on more advanced or specialized topics for more experienced hearing officials. In response, and in a special nod to our host city and its twin, NAHO is offering a “two track option” for conference attendees. Of course, all courses are open to all attendees and all will qualify for classifications necessary for NAHO certification.

Track 1 will feature courses covering general areas of administrative hearings practice. These are intended for new hearing officials and others that want to refresh or confirm their understanding of the fundamental subjects and the mastery of skills that are essential for administrative practice. Track 1 will include courses on hearing practices for new hearing official, the fundamentals of due process, the history and evolution of administrative law, ruling on objections and skills for writing clear and concise decisions.

Track 2 courses pertain to more advanced subjects such as managing complex cases, assessing expert opinions, and best practices for managing high profile cases. Other Track 2 courses will focus on specialized topics such as effectively reading medical records and understanding attention deficit disorders. In addition, in order to accommodate attendees from our host state, some courses will center on Minnesota law and administrative practices.

Also featured this year will be two sessions on the current subject of state and federal health care exchanges. One session will provide an overview of the choices and decisions Minnesota faced in establishing Minnesota's state health care exchange and how it will work. A panel of experts will discuss the future of the exchange from the points of view of panel members representing the exchange, small business, the health insurance industry, legal aid, and individuals. Experts on the federal exchange will present an overview of that exchange and how it will work. These experts will provide technical assistance to states implementing the federal Affordable Care Act.

These and many other exciting offerings will be part of the NAHO 2013 Conference. See the schedule and the full descriptions of the all courses in the 2013 Conference curriculum in the online Registration Brochure at www.naho.org.

Florida DHSMV Hearing Officers Achieve Certification in Record Numbers

Toni Boone (NV)

In 2004, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) contacted the National Judicial College (NJC) to provide an in-service training class for the hearing officers of their Bureau of Administrative Reviews (BAR). I was fortunate to be among the NJC faculty selected to travel to Florida to teach the course. During that class, I had the opportunity to become acquainted with many of the hearing officers. I was impressed with their dedication to their jobs, their interest in improving their knowledge of administrative law and their commitment to attaining greater professionalism in the conduct of their hearings. Through conversations with them, I told them about NAHO and the benefits of joining NAHO, including the process by which NAHO provides national certification for hearing officers and administrative law judges. Several DHSMV hearing officers soon joined NAHO. All were interested in learning more about the NAHO certification process.

The NAHO certification program has been in existence since 1995. NAHO’s aim in creating the certification program was to develop uniform standards of excellence and professionalism for hearing officers and administrative law judges. NAHO certification stresses both substantive and procedural due process and emphasizes fair and impartial adjudication of administrative cases. Certification requires a sound background in administrative law and hearing procedures.

Achieving certification through NAHO is no small feat. To achieve certification, the applicant must establish that he or she has the requisite education, hearing official experience, and in-service training to warrant certification. Applicants are required to provide proof that the in-service training attended was satisfactorily completed at a law school, at a NAHO conference, at the NJC, at a conference of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary, at a state-bar-approved continuing legal education class or through substantive legal training provided by the applicant’s agency. The Certification Committee reviews the applications and supporting documents and makes a recommendation to NAHO's Board of Directors who then votes on whether to grant certification. NAHO certification is a process which typically takes years to complete. Attaining certification is tangible evidence of a hearing official's personal commitment to a fair administrative hearing process.

Over the years, the relationship between the DHSMV and NAHO grew and developed. Many DHSMV hearing officers began working toward certification. Now their efforts are coming to fruition. On October 15, 2012, Michael G. Blain was the first DHSMV Hearing officer to receive NAHO certification. In February, Hearing Officer Lorinna Metro received certification. It was also in February that Bureau Chief Kathy Jimenez-Morales disclosed that 46 other DHSMV-BAR hearing
Florida DHSMV Hearing Officers Achieve Certification in Record Numbers  

(continued from page 6)

officers were working toward certification. Since October of last year, twenty-three DHSMV hearing officers have achieved certification. Based on available records, it appears that the Florida DHSMV may now have more certified hearing officials than any single state agency in the nation. If not, they soon may have.

Florida was among the states hit very hard by the recent downturn in the economy. Although Bureau Chief Kathy Jimenez has provided limitless encouragement and moral support, Florida state budgetary constraints were such that the agency did not have training funds to provide the financial support to send all the BAR hearing officers working toward certification to NAHO’s annual conferences. Thus, an important aspect of the accomplishments of the DHSMV hearing officers is the fact that they have attained certification without some of the agency funding available to hearing officers and administrative law judges working in other states and/or for other administrative agencies. Some DHSMV-BAR hearing officials have attended NAHO conferences at their own expense. Others have taken NAHO courses by renting DVDs from NAHO’s course library at their own expense.

NAHO wants to commend the hearing officers of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Bureau of Administrative Reviews who have recently achieved certification: Michael G. Blain, Lorinna Metro, Gregory Ozment, Debrah Armstrong, Gregg Raughton, Bonnie Griffis, Linda Labbe, Christine J. Anderson, Karsona Atkinson, Linda Labbe, Lorinna Metro and Stephen J. Walter. Kenneth Russell, Ronald Ryan, Cynthia Van Dunk and Mary Varnadore. We commend their commitment to provide fair and impartial adjudication of administrative cases and their dedication to improving their knowledge and professionalism. I’m sure the hearing officers, and certainly the NAHO Board of Directors, wish to show their gratitude to Bureau Chief Jimenez and Assistant Bureau Chief Eileen Bishop for supporting membership in NAHO and encouraging the efforts of the hearing officers in attaining certification. Without their continued cooperation and encouragement, achieving certification would have been difficult, if not impossible.


Katheryn Yetter, Esq.

Dates: August 12-22, 2013
Location: Reno, NV
Tuition: $1,595

Conference Fee $495 (covers a continental breakfast, a hot lunch buffet, and unlimited coffee/soft drink breaks on each day of class and two conference events which include a dinner)

This intensive, fundamental two-week course provides specialized training for state and federal administrative law adjudicators seeking a solid foundation in administrative law adjudication. After attending this course, participants will be able to utilize sound pre-hearing practice and case management techniques; write decisions that will withstand judicial review; effectively address the issue of caseload management; incorporate alternative dispute resolution techniques where appropriate; and evaluate witness and expert credibility. During the course, separate tracks are offered which recognize the differences between the conduct of low volume and high volume proceedings and allow the participants to focus on variant procedural elements.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

For more information, to register for the course, or to apply for a scholarship, please visit www.judges.org.

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