

Tales of TAHRA



News and information for members and friends
of the Tennessee Association of Housing and
Redevelopment Authorities

Informing TAHRA Members and Friends Since 1984

Fall 2012

CLIMBING TO THE TOP!

With the 73rd TAHRA Annual Meeting

Final plans are underway for TAHRA members, guests and exhibitors for our 73rd annual meeting which will be September 23 – 25, 2012 at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Our sessions and program are centered



on our theme “*Climbing to the Top*”. A scholarship golf tournament is also planned to raise money for our deserving students – both current and future.

Our keynote speaker will be **Tom DeLuca** whose hypnosis show is unique as it weaves together the light hearted fun of a comedy show with the motivational message. He will open your imagination

and allow your creativity to emerge in an amazing way. You will be astonished at the things your peers will come up with.

Training topics include **Drug Operations: “Playing Russian Roulette” with Drugs**, presented by Sgt. Joe Murray, (See Annual Meeting Pg. 2)

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Upcoming TAHRA Events

Occupancy Training-PH/Sect. 8
Sept. 5-7 Murfreesboro, TN

2012 TAHRA Annual Meeting
Sept. 23 - 25—Gatlinburg, TN

TAHRA Strategic Planning Mtg.
Oct. 14-15 Fall Creek Falls SP, TN

TCAC Working to Train Resident Leaders

Tennessee’s Community Assistance Corporation hosted a spring resident leadership conference, A B C...1 2 3, Back to the Basics, May 14 – 17, 2012 at the beautiful Music Road Hotel and Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, TN. The conference focused on training resident leadership on the fundamentals of



Resident Councils & Advisory Boards (Bob Hancock, North Little Rock, AR), How to Spend Resident Dollars (Philippe Lindsay, Chattanooga, TN), How to be an Effective Leader (Roxanne Aaron, Hampton, VA), The Do’s and Don’ts of Fundraising in Public Housing (Carol Johnson, Chattanooga, TN), How to Conduct a Meeting (Rita Whicker, Martin, KY), How to Coordinate and Sponsor Life Skill Events for Residents (Valerie Hampton, Huntsville,



AL), How to Encourage Volunteerism (Taleshia Stewart, Columbia, SC), Legalities in Housing (Melissa Maddox-Barnes, Charleston, SC), HUD updates (Ron Ashford, Washington, DC) and Extreme Couponing (Lora Sinard, Morristown, TN). There were 156 residents and guests who attended from housing authorities in Alabama, (See TCAC-page 3)

Message from
TAHRA President
John Snodderly



I hope each of you are planning to attend our upcoming annual meeting in Gatlinburg on September 23 – 25. Let me be the first to welcome you to my part of the state – beautiful east Tennessee. TAHRA strives to continue to offer you excellent training and our annual meeting is another way we do this to raise money for our scholarship fund and meet with exhibitors who showcase their products and services for us. TAHRA board and committees will be meeting on October to discuss our strategic plan and ways to continually improve our services to our members. If you have comments or suggestions, please share those with any board or committee member.

John

Bill Judkins Dead of a Heart Attack

Bill Judkins, former TAHRA President (1982) and former executive director of the Maryville Housing Authority died on April 16, 2012 at the age of 74 of a heart attack. “Bill Judkins quietly went about building Maryville Housing Authority from non-existent to one of the premier housing authorities in the state of Tennessee” said Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell. Mr. Judkins was a well-liked and well respected gentleman and will be missed.



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Donna Baumgartner, TAHRA Executive Director

I look forward to late summer and early fall. Personally, as a huge football fan, I get excited in August as my favorite college team and Titans start practice and begin their quest of meeting this year’s bowl and championship goals. Professionally, I, along with many others of you, are busy with the planning and details of our upcoming 73rd annual meeting which will be held in Gatlinburg, September 23 – 25, 2012. Our sessions and events are designed to engage and excite you – from the opening session, to the keynote speaker, to the training sessions, to our evening events and on and on!

I hope to see you at our annual meeting!

TAHRA Executive Directors Symposium Held in Memphis

Executive directors of Tennessee housing authorities gathered in Memphis for TAHRA’s 8th Annual Executive Directors Symposium. A training program was conducted by Kelvin Elston, assistant professor at Nashville State Community College, who presented informative and entertaining information on “*How to Deal with Difficult People by using Professionalism and Diplomacy and Performance Reviews and Corrective Action*.” Time was also allotted for executive directors to share their peer concerns and issues for further discussion.



(Annual Meeting Cont. from pg. 1) Sullivan County Sheriff’s Office, Kingsport, Tennessee, **Hearing Officers** presented by Nan McKay & Associates, El Cajon, California, **An Overview of the Peaks and Pitfalls of Property Management** presented by J. Keith Swiney, President/CEO, Motivation, Inc., Dallas, Georgia, **Health Care Reform – It’s Here, So Get Ready For It!** presented by John F. Smyth, President, Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc., Morristown, Tennessee, **HUD Updates** presented by HUD personnel, and **Washington Update** from Saul Ramirez, CEO, NAHRO.

The Park Vista is nestled on a hillside overlooking the city of Gatlinburg and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is a convenient location offering spectacular views from the private balcony of each guest-room. Only two blocks from downtown, you can easily enjoy all Gatlinburg has to offer by taking the city’s trolley which stops at the front door. Reservations can be made by calling 800.421.7275. Cut-off date for hotel reservations within our room block is **August 27, 2012**. Rates are \$115.

Further information and online registration is available at www.tahranet.org. Early registration is available until **September 5, 2012**. Early registration fee for members is \$345.

Procurement Associations *by Terry Mckee*



One way to increase knowledge about the public procurement process and professional standards is through active membership in professional organizations. Notice that I said “active” membership because simply having your name on a membership roll does not really do much for you. However, being an active member (reading the newsletters, participating in discussion groups, leading sessions, et cetera) goes far in continuing your professional development.

Just as there are professional associations for most careers, procurement has its professional associations also. Each has its own niche and applicability. Below is information about various procurement associations that exist specifically for governmental procurement officials. There are private sector procurement associations (such as ISM) but their applicability public procurement is limited.

NIGP is the international association for public procurement and it has around 2,000 member agencies. These include cities, counties, states, colleges, airports and housing authorities. The membership fee is based upon the size of your entity. NIGP sponsors workshops, e-chat forums, conferences, a specification library and other procurement related services. For additional information go to www.nigp.org.

ETPA The East Tennessee Purchasing Association (ETPA) covers entities from Crossville to Bristol to Chattanooga. It has three general membership meetings a year plus an annual meeting in October. ETPA offers seminars, speakers and a way to ask questions of colleagues via an email chain. The membership fee is \$50.00 per year (for up two members). Go to <http://www.etpanews.org/> for additional information.

MTPPA The Middle Tennessee Public Purchasing Association (MTPPA) covers governmental entities in the center of the State. This group holds monthly lunch meetings at the Nashville Electric Service office. The membership fee is \$20.00 per year. Go to <http://www.mtppa.net/> for additional information.

TAPP The Tennessee Association of Public Purchasing (TAPP) covers governmental entities across the State of Tennessee. Like the other groups mentioned above, TAPP serves to foster education, training and professional development. The membership fee is \$20.00 per year per person. Go to <http://tappnews.com/> for additional information.

As always, if I can be of help to you, feel free to contact me: tmckee@kcdc.org

(TCAC continued from Page 1) Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Aside from training, guests enjoyed shopping in the local outlets and having an “evening out” visiting the Titanic Museum. TCAC will also host a fall/winter conference December 3 – 6 at the Music Road Hotel & Convention Center – a “Hold the Date” notice will be sent out the last week of August. For questions regarding TCAC’s resident leadership conferences, please call or email Ella Parker, TCAC Resident Initiatives Coordinator at (423) 586-7636 X 17 or tcacric@bellsouth.com. To see all the photos from the spring conference go to tcac1.org and to the Resident Initiatives site...we hope to see you in December!



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**DON'T FORGET THE TAHRA RESIDENT
NEWSLETTER CONTEST DEADLINE**

IS SEPTEMBER 28, 2012 (Rules in Summer Issue)

Send 4 copies of your best resident Newsletter to TAHRA or turn them in to Donna Baumgartner at Annual Meeting!

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Cookeville HA Resident is Adult HS Valedictorian

Cookeville Housing Authority resident, Crystal Reagan is a true success story. Pictured with her youngest daughter, Carissa, Crystal recently graduated from Cookeville Adult High School as the class valedictorian of 37 graduates.

Crystal is a single mom of 4 children, twins age 13, 9 and 4. She left high school 17 years ago only needing 4 1/2 credits to graduate. Crystal states, "I always felt incomplete. Once I tried to get a job washing dishes but the job required a GED. So I decided I'm going back to school. I wanted to give my children hope that anything is possible and set an example to them as a mom." It took Crystal a year to get her GED.

While in school she found a recurrence of thyroid cancer. She continued on with school even while undergoing cancer treatments although some days she only had strength for one hour of class. Crystal and her children often studied together. Her example to her children has paid off—her twins are on the honor roll and in Beta Club. Crystal has already begun the process of enrolling at the Nashville State Community College branch here in Cookeville to become a Physical Therapy Assistant. Her goals are to get a job and move into her own home.

Crystal openly states, "If it weren't for housing I never would have been able to finish my education and accomplish my goals and move on. To me, that's what it's all about."

Tennessee Governors Conference on Housing October 9-10

This year's Housing Summit will take place at the Sheraton Music City Hotel. The Summit offers training, exhibits and information about successful housing programs. THDA organizes the Summit to facilitate conversation between existing housing providers, related entities such as lenders, REALTORS®, builders, developers, nonprofit organizations, community planners and elected officials.

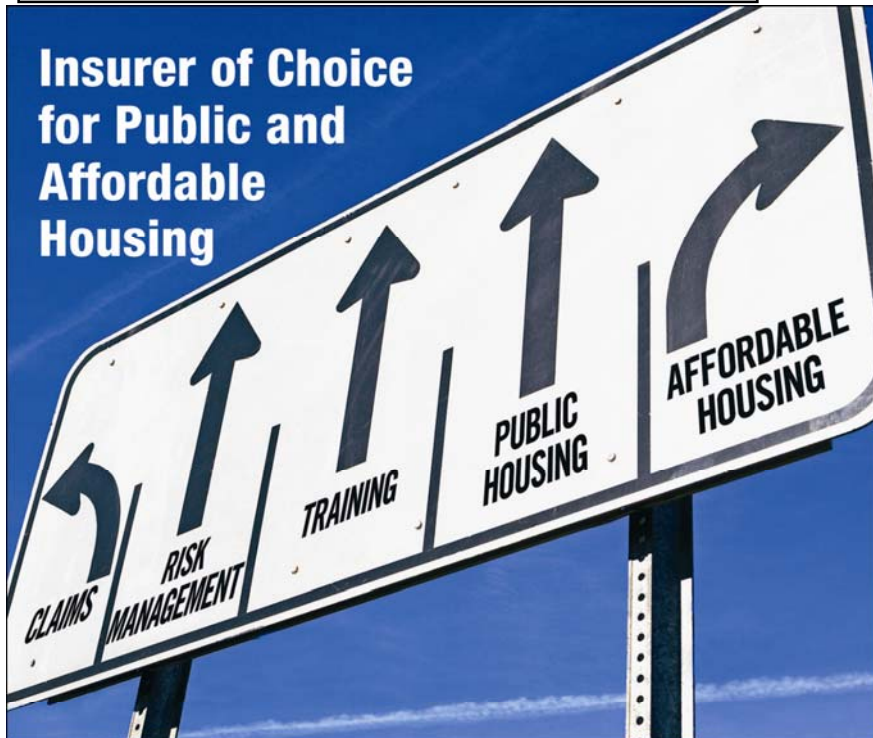
"Tales of TAHRA" Back Issues Available Online!

You can now access electronic archives of the *Tales of TAHRA* issues back to November 2004 online. All these issues are available as .PDF files so you will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader program to open them. Go to:

<http://talesoftahra.googlepages.com>

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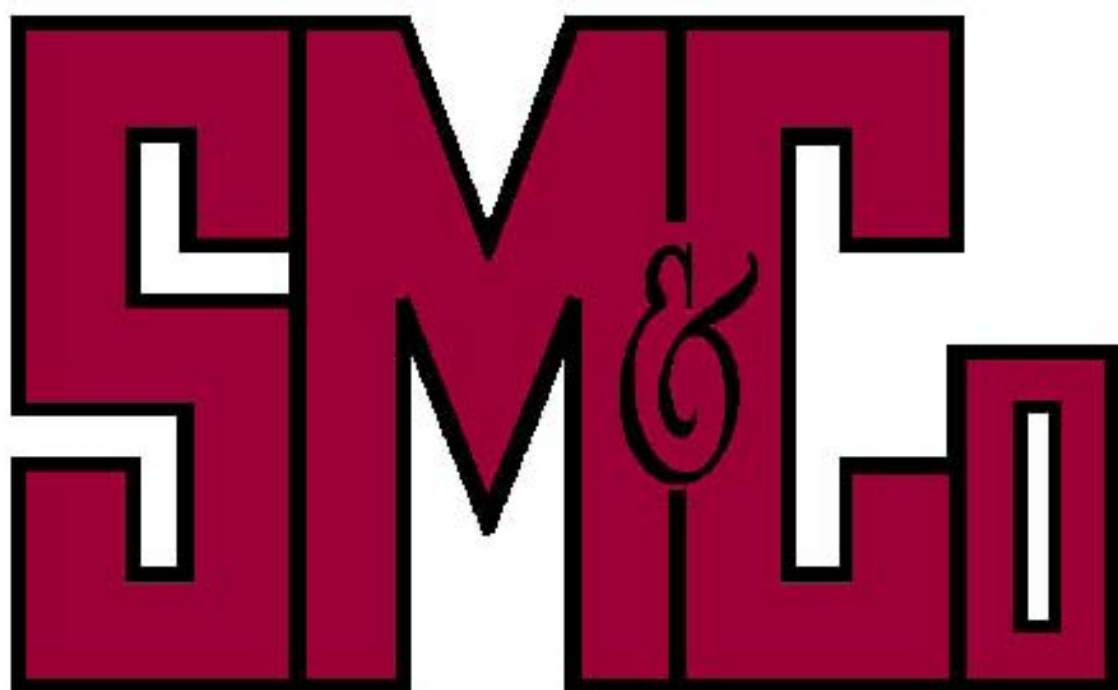
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Cookeville HA After School Program Visits Nashville Zoo!

Cookeville Housing Authority's *TNT After-School Program* ended the school year with a trip to the Nashville Zoo. Nineteen children enjoyed the day which included the special dinosaur exhibit. The trip was a reward for good school participation, good TNT participation & helping with community volunteer projects. In 2011, the children completed 9 volunteer projects: 3 Adopt-A-Road trash pickups, visited CHA veterans, collected & shipped snack items to troops overseas, Christmas singing at a nursing home & at the CHA Christmas luncheon, and twice they sorted Christmas items for Toys for Tots.

PUBLIC HOUSING AND HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER OCCUPANCY TRAINING SEPTEMBER 5-7

TAHRA is pleased to offer Public Housing Occupancy and Housing Choice Voucher Occupancy Training conducted by Nan McKay and Associates. The training will be September 5-7, 2012 at Murfreesboro Housing Authority. You may register for either the public housing or the housing choice voucher training or do both. Registration deadline is August 31.

TAHRA to Offer Green Physical Needs Assessment (GPNA) and Energy Audit Training October 11-12

TAHRA will offer to its members Green Physical Needs Assessment and Energy Audit Training on October 11 - 12, 2012 at the Murfreesboro Housing Authority. The training will be conducted by Nan McKay and Associates. Check our website for registration information in early September.

TAHRA Has New Mailing Address!

Make sure you have the new mailing address for TAHRA. It is 625 Bakers Bridge Avenue, Suite 105, Franklin, TN 37067. The phone, fax and email remains the same.

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Keeping Current:

Murfreesboro Housing Authority recently completed the renovation of Highland Heights, now known as Parkside which will serve the elderly, disabled and families.

Martin Housing Authority joined their Community Developmental Services to open and clean a former middle school. Martin Housing Agency plans to open a new community center in the building, which is owned by the city of Martin but will be managed by MHA.

Portland Housing Authority recently honored Freida Jones upon her retirement from the board of commissioners.

Crossville Housing Authority will miss long time Commissioner and Chairman Bob Mitchell, who has retired.

Athens Housing Authority Residents Give Back Through Gardening-Residents of Athens Housing Authority invested in the success of one of their city's new community gardens. Residents will be given produce from the garden based on how many hours they volunteer to work the land or sell its harvest. They can participate in classes on canning and food preservation, amount the other culinary arts, to ensure that residents make the best use possible of their new resource.

TALES OF TAHRA Welcomes Your Comments and Article Submissions!

Comments can be sent to Donna Baumgartner, TAHRA Executive Director or any member of the TAHRA Board. Article submissions should be emailed to Tales Editor, Jim Young at talesofTAHRA@gmail.com - mailed to Jim at Crossville Housing Authority, P.O. Box 425, Crossville TN 38557 or faxed to Jim's attention at (931) 456-1513. We are looking for articles of interest to HA's across Tennessee concerning interesting problem solutions and new programs that could be replicated at other HA's. Previous issues can be found online at <http://talesoftahra.googlepages.com>

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE October 26, 2012 for Publication November 2012.