

NAGLO News

February 2009

Dave Neil, *President*

Executive Board

President

Dave Neil
Iowa Division of Labor Services
dave.neil@iwd.state.ia.us
515/281-3447

1st Vice President

C. Ray Davenport
Virginia Department of Labor & Industry
ray.davenport@doli.virginia.gov
804/786-2377

Secretary/Treasurer

Earl Everett
Georgia Department of Labor
earl.everett@dol.state.ga.us
404/679-4733

Eastern Region

William A. Peabody
Maine Department of Labor
william.a.peabody@maine.gov
207/624-6400

Mid-Western Region

Lori A. Torres
Indiana Department of Labor
ltorres@dol.in.gov
317/232-2655

Southern Region

J. R. Gray
Kentucky Labor Cabinet
jr.gray@ky.gov
502/564-3070

Western Region

Brad Avakian
Oregon Bureau of Labor & Industries
brad.avakian@state.or.us

NAGLO

Post Office Box 29609
Atlanta, GA 30359
404/679-1795

FAX: 678/222-7733

jeannine.konieczny@dol.state.ga.us

NAGLO News is a monthly
newsletter of the National
Association of Government Labor
Officials

A Message From Our President

As of this writing, the nominated Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, has not been confirmed by the U.S. Senate. This inaction does not give the State Labor Departments any direction from the new administration and leaves those of us who are directly tied to them through programs in limbo for a while longer. It is still NAGLO leadership's intent to hopefully meet with Secretary Solis once she is confirmed.



Dave Neil, President

I am sure all states are challenged with the unemployment numbers going up, thereby increasing the number of unemployment applications that must be taken; and now with the \$25.00 added benefit from the Federal Stimulus Bill, for those states who accepted the benefit, the work load increases. These are challenging times for everyone in government as the citizens look for us to serve them in their most difficult time.

Beginning in May, NAGLO will be sending out Membership Dues notices for fiscal year 2010. Some states may wish to pay their dues in this fiscal year and this way you will have the option to pay with '09 monies or wait till 2010.

I am looking forward to our meeting in August in the Great State of Utah.

Stay Safe.

Dave Neil
President

NOTE: After the writing of this letter, California Rep. Hilda Solis won confirmation Tuesday, February 24th as Labor Secretary.

For more information, go to <http://www.naglo.org>

Getting to Know You

This month, our feature member is:
Commissioner Brad Avakian
Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries

In the State of Oregon, the mission of the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) is to protect employment rights, advance employment opportunities, and assure access to housing and public accommodations is free from discrimination.

Commissioner Brad Avakian was appointed by Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski in April, 2008. The following November, the voters of Oregon expressed their confidence in him by electing him to a four year term. He believes, in order to accomplish the mission, BOLI must be strong in all three of its major divisions (Apprenticeship and Training, Civil Rights, Wage and Hour) because their work is so complimentary. Commissioner Avakian states, "We must also revitalize the technical Assistance for Employers Program, which was created to answer employer questions and assist in navigating the numerous, sometimes complex, labor and employment laws that businesspeople must deal with every day. It is a disservice to Oregon's business community, and especially small business owners, that our Technical Assistance unit offers necessary services to other state agencies as well as private employers and yet receives no taxpayer money. My vision is to energize all of the components of this agency, to keep them working effectively together to support Oregon's workers, and to work cooperatively with Oregon's employers to respond to their needs, especially in this evolving economy."

This year, Commissioner Avakian has set his priorities for this legislative session. He is interested in restructuring the leadership of the workforce development system to better connect industry needs to effective programs that train workers with the skills that employers are seeking, and limiting the impact of state



budget cuts on what is already a very lean BOLI. He adds, "We are also working on cleaning up out-dated language in our prevailing wage statutes and solidifying our 'substantial equivalency' certification with HUD to ensure that Oregon maintains its contract to

locally investigate fair housing complaints."

Beyond legislative matters, Commissioner Avakian is strengthening the relationships his office has with business people and employer associations. He ensures they feel welcome in his office to discuss issues with the Labor Commissioner in the way organized labor has always enjoyed. Both labor and employer groups have been major supporters of his effort to reinvigorate career and technical education in Oregon's public schools, which is critical to increasing the effectiveness of the state's workforce development system.

When asked how being involved with NAGLO has helped him, Commissioner Avakian responded, "Rarely does an issue arise that has not already been considered by another state's labor official. NAGLO can be an invaluable resource for education, research and collegial sharing of experiences on all issues important to labor and industry. I am looking forward to seeing my colleagues from around the country again, this year is a fellow western state, Utah, and hopefully welcoming new members to NAGLO's ranks. I am also eager to hear how emerging issues are playing out in other states, including the need to invest in workforce development at a time when jobs are scarce and money to invest in the workforce is even more scarce."

The Commissioner accredits his success to two important factors: He never lies and he makes the best chocolate chip cookies in the world. Maybe he will bring some to Utah!

SAVE THE DATE...

August 2 - 5, 2009

NAGLO ANNUAL MEETING



HOSTED BY THE UTAH LABOR COMMISSION

Mark your calendars for the upcoming NAGLO Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. Join us for an informative and productive meeting... and plan to visit one of the most beautiful and scenic areas in the United States. The Utah Labor Commission is anxious to showcase all that Salt Lake City and its surrounding areas have to offer!



UTAH
LIFE ELEVATED™

UTAH LABOR
COMMISSION



NAGLO
ANNUAL MEETING

August 2 - 5,
2009

HILTON HOTEL
Salt Lake City, UT
www.hilton.com

For questions regarding the meeting, please contact
Jeannine Konieczny, NAGLO Secretariat

(404) 679-1795

jeannine.konieczny@dol.state.ga.us

or visit www.naglo.org



Welcome Back

John C. Duncan, Director, CA Department of Industrial Relations has been appointed for the second time. You may remember John when he served as Director from 1995 to 1999. NAGLO looks forward to having John back.

Website Update

We are currently working on updating the NAGLO website. If you have any information you would like to see on the website, please contact Jeannine Konieczny at 404/679-1795.

For more information <http://www.naglo.org>