

# NAGLO News

June 2011

Lori Torres, *President*

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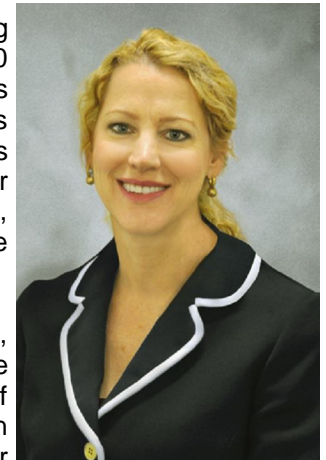
## **A Message From Our President**

Welcome to all of our new and returning NAGLO members. There are more than 30 new governors that took office in January, thus many new labor secretaries, commissioners and directors. Welcome one and all. NAGLO is a fantastic place for all of us to get together irrespective of whether we are democrats, republicans, or independents. We all share similar issues and concerns.

I recently returned from Montreal Canada, having attended the spring meeting of the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation ("CAALL"). All 10 Canadian provinces were in attendance, most by their provincial deputy ministers. CAALL is staffed by the Canadian federal government, and it was nice to see the level of support of the federal government to the provinces. I made several presentations on behalf of NAGLO. One was about collective bargaining for public employees, and the other was entitled *Interaction between Federal and State DOL's: Waltz or Rumba?* We talked about the tensions and pressure points between state/provincial departments of labor and the federal government, as well as areas where significant collaboration and work was ongoing. It was interesting that similar issues on all fronts exist in Canada and the U.S. This crosses workers' compensation, occupational safety and health, labor management relations, and the reconciliation of judicial review with legislation and how that impacts the daily practice of labor departments. We also heard reports from the international labor affairs committee.

The presentations were current and relevant. The governments are looking at developing a strong, pervasive social media and electronic communication program. Additionally, there was an extensive analysis of a recently issued supreme court case, and a thorough presentation on the decline in union density. The presentation analyzed the potential long term issues as a result of that decline. It was a very balanced, scholarly and educational presentation, particularly relevant, I think, as Right to Work legislation is being proposed in many states across the country. I also learned that the minimum wage in nearly every province is or is soon scheduled to be \$10.00 per hour. With the current exchange rate, that is even higher in U.S. dollars.

My Canadian hosts were a warm and cordial bunch, and I was grateful for the opportunity to attend. The President of CAALL, Robert Lapper, is the Deputy Minister of British Columbia. We are fortunate that he has accepted our invitation to attend our NAGLO meeting in St. Louis, Missouri this summer.



**Lori Torres, *President***

# 2011 Annual Meeting

The 97th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Governmental Labor Officials is scheduled for July 24-27, 2011 at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri.

Hotel room rates are \$105.00 per night. Cut off date for the adjusted rate is July 1, 2011. Please contact the hotel at 314/621-9600 or 800/228-9290 and state you are attending the NAGLO Annual Meeting.

Registration per dues paying member is \$300.00 and \$400.00 per non-dues paying member.

We have an exciting agenda planned this year. Topics include: E-Verify; 21st Century Apprenticeship and OSHA Funding for 2012, to name a few. We will also have guest speakers to include Alaska Labor Commissioner Clark "Click" Bishop and representatives from Taiwan and Canada.

You will find the registration form on our website at [www.naglo.org](http://www.naglo.org), as well as a draft agenda.

## Directory Updates

The FY12 NAGLO Directory will be printed and distributed after the Annual Meeting. Please check the NAGLO website to verify your information is correct.

Additionally, an update form will be sent out via e-mail. Please complete the form and return it via fax (678/222-7733) or e-mail ([jeannine.konieczny@dol.state.ga.us](mailto:jeannine.konieczny@dol.state.ga.us)).

Every effort is made to assure the most up-to-date information being published in the Directory. Your assistance in returning the update form makes this possible.

## National Summit on the Role of Education in Economic Development in Rural America

Brad Avakian, Commissioner, Oregon Bureau of Labor & Industries and 2nd VP of NAGLO, attended the National Summit on the Role of Education in Economic Development in Rural America May 4, 2011 in Washington, DC.

This one-day summit was jointly sponsored by the US Departments of Education and Agriculture and involved participation by Secretaries Duncan (Education) and Vilsac (Agriculture).

The Summit featured cross-agency, statewide, regional and intergovernmental approaches to address the education and economic development challenges faced by rural America. It provided a rare opportunity for participants to share their ideas with state and federal officials before they act on the reauthorization or creation of key policies.

The summit aimed to improve rural economic development by:

1. Identifying successful models of partnership between education and economic development leaders in rural America.
2. Identifying key policy and legislative barriers at the federal, state and local levels and strategies to overcome them.
3. Providing recommendations for federal, state and local policies that could improve the opportunity for partnerships in rural America.

# Earl Everett Memorial Scholarship Winner Announced



Ellen Golombek, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment is the first recipient of the Earl Everett Memorial Scholarship.

Earl Everett was the original and only Director of Safety Engineering for the Georgia Department of Labor. Since 1990, Earl was deeply involved with NAGLO, and served at least once as President, and many years as its Secretary-Treasurer, the only office in which the officer is allowed to serve for more than two consecutive years. He was NAGLO's historian, champion and chief recruiter. Earl attended each NAGLO conference in his RV, accompanied by his wife, Jonnie, and traveling companions. During the 2009 conference in Salt Lake City, Earl began to feel poorly. Before he was able to drive his RV home from Salt Lake City to Georgia, Earl was hospitalized and passed away far from home, but not far from his family or NAGLO. The Executive Board of NAGLO set up the Earl Everett Memorial Scholarship to honor his twenty year legacy.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must be in their first two years as labor commissioners, never have attended a NAGLO annual conference and were required to write a 2-3 paragraph narrative on why they would like to be awarded the scholarship.

Director Golombek submitted the following narrative:

"Thank you for your consideration of Colorado to be the recipient of the Earl Everett Memorial Scholarship. I was touched to read about Earl's many contributions not only to the State of Georgia but also to many national organizations and individuals; his commitment to safety has obviously been invaluable to us all. Housing the Division of Oil and Public Safety within our department, I am keenly aware of the importance of regulating boilers, elevators, gas stations, amusements parks and many other aspects of daily life we all take for granted.

"I am applying for this scholarship because Colorado, like much of the nation, has seen drastic cuts to our state budget. It is up to us to become creative in ensuring that Colorado remains able to participate in important national discussions such as the NAGLO Annual Meeting. As a newly appointed Executive Director (I began my new role on January 20, 2011), I am eager to collaborate with my colleagues from other states on tackling the critical issues we all face. Governor Hickenlooper and I have prioritized innovation and collaboration to bring new ways of doing business to Colorado and to the Department. I see the NAGLO Annual Meeting as one of the rare opportunities to personally hear about new ideas and innovations that are taking place across the country.

"I would greatly appreciate the financial assistance from this scholarship. Colorado is in the unique and difficult situation of not only having constitutional constraints on our state budget and unprecedented economic difficulties, but of also having exceedingly strict guidelines on what financial gifts we can accept. Therefore, the Everett Scholarship represents a rare source of permissible outside funds to help us fray the mounting costs of governing.

"I appreciate your consideration of our application for this scholarship."