

# NAGLO News

March/April 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**

Greetings:

As everyone is now aware, the U.S. Senate has finally confirmed Hilda Solis as the U.S. Secretary of Labor. On behalf of NAGLO, we congratulate Hilda Solis on her new position and look forward to a working relationship with her and her staff.



Dave Neil, President

We are in the process of extending an invitation to her to join NAGLO at our Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT in August.

The Annual Meeting is really taking shape thanks to our Meeting Committee of Labor Commissioner Lori Torres, Indiana, chair; Director William Peabody, Maine; Commissioner Brad Avakian, Oregon; Commissioner J. R. Gray, Kentucky; and our host, Commissioner Sherrie Hayashi, Utah. They have been working via the phone, planning an informative and educational opportunity for Commissioners and Directors of State Labor Departments. In addition to the educational opportunities, the NAGLO membership will be asked to take action on the issue of incorporating or not to incorporate as a non-profit organization. As of today, we are not incorporated and the Board will be making a recommendation in this regard at the Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City in August.

Membership dues notices for the 2009-2010 fiscal year will be coming out in the month of May. There are many issues we as Commissioners will be asked to deal with in the coming year with a new administration in office. Therefore, the value of NAGLO membership and the connections it provides through the networking of Commissioners from across the country becomes a great value for the investment. I found when I became the Labor Commissioner of my state, the membership in NAGLO was very helpful and has continued to be a resource of help.

Looking forward to seeing all in Salt Lake City.

Stay Safe.

Dave Neil

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

# Getting to Know You

This month, our feature member is:

**Secretary Suzanne M. Bump**

**Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development**

## About Secretary Bump...



Suzanne M. Bump, a member of Governor Deval Patrick's Cabinet, is the Secretary of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Most recently, she has led efforts, on the Governor's behalf, to ensure that the resources from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are being utilized rapidly and effectively to create employment and training opportunities for unemployed workers.

Secretary Bump is proud to work for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts where defending the interests of working families is steeped in tradition. Massachusetts was the very first state to have an agency devoted to protecting and defending working people – founded 15 years before the Federal Department of Labor.

Committed to the needs of working people and businesses in Massachusetts, Secretary Bump has improved the performance and effectiveness of the labor and workforce agencies. She reorganized the state's labor relations agencies and organized the Governor's effort to surface the underground economy, and has given working people a voice in labor policy.

In the workforce development area, her three major policy goals are closing the skills gap, better aligning state resources that support education and training, and investing in youth jobs and apprenticeship programs.

Her professional experience spans the public, private and non-profit sectors. After leaving the legislature, she worked in business for more than a decade. Currently, she is the president of the board of a non-profit providing substance abuse recovery services to women.

A native of Massachusetts, she earned an A.B. in English from Boston College and a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School.

## Secretary Bump's Message...

I am inspired by the role that organized labor has played in building safer and more civilized work conditions in our country.

Our agency coordinates along two tracks, the labor track, and the workforce development track. Our Department of Labor is charged with maintaining strong relationships with unions and other members of the labor community, ensuring compliance with workers compensation and other workplace safety initiatives, and adjudicating labor relations disputes and workers rights issues. When this Secretariat was formed under Governor Deval Patrick's leadership, he charged us with restructuring the state's labor relations agencies. Together we organized the Governor's effort to surface the underground economy.

Our Workforce Development team works on the career and employment side, nurturing and supporting regional economies to provide training opportunities and employment opportunities for Massachusetts workers. Workforce Development also oversees the unemployment system, which serves as an essential safety net for displaced workers struggling to make ends meet. Early on in our service, we identified the need to initiate a \$40 million replacement of the ancient computer system which runs the billion dollar unemployment benefits operation.

Like many other states, we have focused recent efforts around ensuring that funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is put to the best possible use to help Massachusetts workers at this very difficult time. Under Governor Patrick's leadership, we are poised to add jobs and training opportunities for as many individuals as possible. While our office has leveraged every resource at our disposal to respond to the needs of the unemployed, I am proud to say that we have not taken our eye off the ball, and are moving forward with our long term agenda to close the skills gap in our Commonwealth and identify regional workplace solutions and strategies that help employers connect with the ever evolving workforce.

I am very pleased to be part of the *National Association of Government Labor Officials*. The labor community is a close knit community, as are state labor officials who partner with them across the country. Together, we recognize the difficult challenges that working families in our states are facing right now. At this time, learning from our collective wisdom is essential.

I welcome you to visit our website <http://www.mass.gov/EOLWD> and look forward to working with all of you, as NAGLO members, in the future.

# Getting to Know You

We are also featuring:

**Director of Labor George Noel**

**Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development**

## About Director Noel...

Appointed January 29, 2007 by Governor Deval Patrick, Director of the Department of Labor George Noel oversees the Department of Industrial Accidents, the Division of Occupational Safety, Division of Labor Relations and the Joint Labor-Management Committee. In addition, Noel serves as Chair of the Joint Task Force on the Underground Economy and Employee Misclassification. Noel brings decades of experience in labor-management relations and advocacy for workers and working families to the position.

With a career at Raytheon spanning more than 32 years, Noel performed a variety of jobs ranging from unloading trucks to precision inspection of machine parts, eventually testing and troubleshooting some of the world's most sophisticated communications and radar systems.

Noel joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1505 soon after he started at Raytheon. He later followed in his father's footsteps when he was selected as a shop steward, representing test technicians at the Waltham Equipment Division Plant, before being appointed Chief Steward.

Noel was eventually elected Business Manager/Financial Secretary of Local 1505, representing 2,000 maintenance and production workers at all Raytheon facilities across the Commonwealth. In that position, he was the Local's chief contract negotiator and administered the collective bargaining agreement.

Noel was elected as a vice president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, taking a leadership role in the Commonwealth's labor movement. Prior to that, he served as a delegate to the Greater Boston and Greater Lowell Central Labor Councils. He helped form the Merrimack Valley Central Labor Council, and was elected its first President.

Throughout his career, Noel has been actively involved in efforts to retain and create jobs. He was labor representative on the Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative, a public-private partnership to save 33,000 defense-related Massachusetts jobs during military restructuring. Noel also sat on the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board, and advised the Patrick/Murray Transition's Workforce Development Working Group.



Noel is a US Army veteran from Dedham who lives in Billerica with his wife Anne. They have two sons, George J. Noel, a civil engineer with the US Department of Transportation, and Michael Noel an emergency medical technician.

## Director Noel's message...

The Massachusetts Department of Labor (DOL) has a dual mission—to protect the general welfare of working people in Massachusetts, and to promote stable, mutually beneficial relationships between employers and employees. Massachusetts continues to be a pioneer in understanding the concerns of working men and women and is working to ensure economic justice for working families. The Commonwealth retains its tradition of protecting employees and promoting stability for employers.

My vision, as Director, in fulfilling the mission is:

- To continue to assist Governor Deval Patrick as he fulfills our shared commitment to pursue economic justice for all of Massachusetts citizens.
- To continue the mission that we began in November 2007 when the legislature established the Division of Labor Relations to restore the confidence of employers and employees, both public and private, in the Commonwealth's ability to administer the laws that govern collective bargaining.
- To surface the Underground Economy that is made up of individuals and businesses that willfully avoid labor, licensing and tax laws. These individuals and businesses misclassify employees as independent contractors or deal in cash and other "off the books" schemes to conceal their activities and true tax liability from licensing, regulatory and tax agencies. The DOL leads the Joint Task Force (JTF) on the Underground Economy and Employee Misclassification that is comprised of various state agencies with the goal of surfacing the underground economy that works collaboratively to impede these employers from exploiting vulnerable workers; defrauding the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of much needed revenue; save consumers from unregulated and potentially unsafe goods and services; and removing the unfair advantage they hold over legitimate employers and their workers.

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**Director of Labor George Noel**

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- To expand the concept of interagency cooperation with a goal of surfacing the underground economy to other states and the federal government. We are hoping to collaborate with other states to create a framework for state joint task forces to work together, share information, and pursue employers who operate in the underground economy.

My goals are:

- Economic and social justice for workers that labor in Massachusetts
- Bringing the underground economy to the surface
- Ensuring that the voice of workers is heard by promoting organized labor's representation on the

Commonwealth's boards and commissions.

- Striving to make the Commonwealth's public and private sector workplaces safer.
- Improving the quality of life of all workers in the Commonwealth by encouraging businesses to be responsible employers.

NAGLO has given me the opportunity to develop relationships with fellow government labor officials. I have been able to share ideas and learn best practices from my peers.

I look forward to renewing old friendships and establishing new relationships with fellow labor commissioners. It will be exciting to see the new role that US DOL will now play under the leadership of President Obama and Labor Secretary Solis.

**2009 Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, August 2 - Wednesday, August 5**  
**Hilton Salt Lake City Center**  
**255 South West Temple**  
**Salt Lake City, UT**  
**(801) 530-6224**

**REGISTRATION**

The registration form for the Annual Meeting is now available to download on-line at [www.naglo.org](http://www.naglo.org). Click on "Upcoming Events." To pay by credit card, simply complete the form with your credit card information and mail to NAGLO, Post Office Box 29609, Atlanta, GA 30359. You may also call Jeannine at (404) 679-1795 to give the information directly to her or fax to (678) 222-7733.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Room reservations may be made by contacting the hotel directly, or you may make your hotel reservations on-line. There is a link to the Hilton Salt Lake City Center on the NAGLO website. The discounted rates will be automatically applied.

If you contact the hotel, be sure to state you are attending the NAGLO Annual Meeting to get the discounted rate.

Room rates at \$102.00 single or double.

**REGISTRATION FEES**

Fees for the Annual Meeting are: \$300.00 per dues paying NAGLO member; \$400.00 per non-dues paying government or private sector attendee and \$100.00 per guest.

If you have any questions about the Annual Meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Jeannine at (404) 679-1795.

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