

# LHC NEWSLINE

LOUISIANA HOUSING COUNCIL (LHC) NEWSLINE - SUMMER 2018 EDITION

## THE PELICAN BRIEF: MESSAGE FROM THE LHC PRESIDENT



Dear LHC Members:

I am very honored to serve as your president for the next two years. As we enter into the first part of 2018, I look forward to working with the Board of Directors and the entire membership in making the decisions on moving LHC forward in a positive manner in

order to provide the tools we all need to provide safe, decent, sanitary housing in our communities. My goals over my two-year term are to help in the organization of needed trainings and certifications while also encouraging the entire membership to network and help each other. LHC will be offering two PH Specialist Trainings in July, one in Lafayette and one in Shreveport; Executive Management & Leadership Training and Maintenance Workshop in Marksville in August; and a HCV Specialist training in September in Baton Rouge. So please keep looking for the details in your emails and take advantage of these great training opportunities.

To all Officers, Committee Chairs, and Members of LHC, I look forward to working with all of you. Over the next two years and moving forward, we all will see "New Faces, New Places, and New Ideas." I ask that we all work together, whether you are old or new to the LHC organization in order to make LHC BIGGER, BETTER AND THE BEST THAT IT CAN BE. Always remember "COMMUNICATION" is the key to success, and I am just an email or phone call away should you need anything.

So, let's work together, listen to one another and communicate effectively to accomplish our very important mission, which is to provide the best to the people and our communities we serve.

Thanks for all that you do, and let's continue to move LHC forward in a positive manner.

**Pamela Fontenot**  
**LHC President**



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## LHC NAHRO OFFICERS

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& Development**

# HANO CELEBRATES THE GRAND OPENING OF THE GUSTE III APARTMENT HOMES



*Guste III Apartment Homes*

HANO continues to reach milestones in creating more affordable housing opportunities for low income residents in New Orleans. In April, the agency commemorated the completion of the third phase of redevelopment in the Guste Homes Community with a grand opening ceremony for the multi-family building and single family homes.

Visitors ranging from elected officials, community leaders, housing advocates and current and former Guste residents enjoyed the sounds of the James Andrews band while touring eight available apartments, the multi-family community room and highly technical security room, and two of the single family homes.

Construction of phase III began in 2013 at a cost of \$61 million, through the use of \$26 million from HANO, \$21.9 million from FEMA, and \$13.1 million in Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Gibbs Construction and Colmex Construction completed the development of 155 new one, two, three and four bedroom units, which include Energy Star appliances, and are also pre-wired for cable and internet services. Community supportive services provided by the Guste Resident Management Corporation are available for residents living in the community.

The William J. Guste Homes community was originally built in 1964 with 993 public housing units. The initial site consisted of one 12-story high-rise, elderly-only building and six low-rise buildings. In 2004, HANO began its full redevelopment following approval of a conversion plan by HUD and the subsequent demolition of the low-rise buildings through the use of a HOPE VI Grant. Currently, there are 638 homes located on the entire Guste site; 577 of which are public housing units.

For more information on HANO communities, visit [www.HANO.org](http://www.HANO.org).



*Earl Randall, III  
New Orleans Field Office Director  
US Department of Housing and Urban Development*

## MESSAGE FROM THE HUD NEW ORLEANS FIELD OFFICE:

The Field Office Director, Public Housing Leadership & Staff would like to express our appreciation for all of the hard work and dedication to serving our clients. The New Orleans Field Office is also committed to providing as much technical assistance and guidance necessary to ensure that WE (HUD and PHAs) are meeting the needs of residents and addressing affordable housing needs across the State. We are looking to promote opportunity and quality affordable living throughout Louisiana. In doing so, we will evoke positive change whenever and wherever it is needed. We have done a great deal, but there is still much to be accomplished. We look forward to working with ALL of you!!!!

# LEESVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY BRINGS NEW LIFE TO THE TWIN LAKES OF LEESVILLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT



*Newly Renovated Logan Lane Site at Twin Lakes of Leesville*

## By BGC Advantage

The Leesville Housing Authority (LHA) led by Executive Director, Barbara Kaveski, partnered with BGC to transform their aging public properties into a vibrant and sustainable affordable housing community. The result was the first RAD portfolio conversion in Louisiana and it was the first project in the country to receive a RAD PBV Utility Waiver. All was made possible by securing a complex layering of critical funding totaling \$23,433,133 from multiple sources, including: Enterprise Community Partners, Bellwether Enterprise (RD 538 Loan), PHA funds, Louisiana Housing Corporation HOME Funds, and Tax-Exempt Bonds.

Twin Lakes of Leesville is now a four-site development with 194 units. The 14-month renovation includes thoughtful interior updates, such as new windows, floors, lighting, cabinets, fresh paint, and electrical panels, as well as exterior upgrades, including replacing major building systems, repaving roads, and installing new signage, gas lines, and meters. Some units were optimized to meet ADA requirements for handicapped or disabled tenants, but every unit received a unique face-lift. As originally built, the buildings were boxy with no unique or special architectural details. Now, they are re-imagined and dignified with stone bases and battens on the siding.

No detail was overlooked. Great care was taken to provide improved interior amenities, including in-unit energy

efficient kitchen appliances and washers and dryers, ceiling fans, and digitally controlled heating and air. Exteriors were finished with lush landscaping. LHA organized volunteers, community members, and residents for a Beautification Day with BGC Advantage. Volunteers, young and old, helped plant, trim, and mulch all four sites. Finally, as an inviting beacon to the new family-focused development, the main office was leveled to make way for a modern facility with handicapped accessibility and welcoming spaces for meetings.

“Working with Barbara Kaveski has been a joy. She was a true partner in every sense of the word, working tirelessly to ensure the residents were a top priority,” said BGC Advantage CEO Holly Knight. “From concept to completion, her vision and creativity helped us realize the full potential of this project.”

“Our agency could have not reached our current level of achievement without BGC Advantage providing us with the tools and resources to continue our vision of providing affordable housing in our community,” said Leesville Housing Authority of CEO Barbara Kaveski. “Holly and BGC Advantage motivated our agency to push through every challenge with unwavering determination. We are extremely proud of what we did as a team, comprised of Government, Private and Public partnerships, and look forward to a long-term relationship.”



# THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF SHREVEPORT HOSTED TWO TRAININGS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES



Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS) Seminar

In an effort to continue to provide quality and affordable training opportunities to public housing authorities across the country, the Housing Authority of the City of Shreveport recently hosted two professional development trainings.

Last month, NAHRO instructor Kenneth Love presented a three-day Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS) seminar. The interactive and comprehensive training focused on the specifications of public housing assessment systems, the inspector's role and responsibilities, and discussing any new challenges and procedures in relation to the Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS). Over a dozen participants from five states attended the training opportunity.

On May 1st to 4th, the Housing Authority also hosted the "Back to Basics: HUD Accounting for Public Housing and the Housing Choice Voucher Program" training presented by Mike Petro and Jason Casterline of BDO USA, LLP. This innovative course provided participants with a comprehensive overview of the Low Income Public Housing, Section 8, and the RAD program's accounting and reporting activities.

## PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENT RECEIVES LHC SCHOLARSHIP

Sheronda Jackson, a seven-year public housing resident with the Housing Authority of the City of Shreveport, was recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Louisiana Housing Council.

With her experience working at Starbucks for four years, Jackson plans on becoming an entrepreneur, and open her own coffee shop. She is currently studying Business Administration at Bossier City Community College. Jackson is also a proud mother of two children.



Sheronda Jackson & her two children

## CONGRATS TO THE NEWEST FSS GRAD, KELLIE BROWN!

The Housing Authority of the City of Shreveport wishes to congratulate Kellie Brown on being the latest Family Self-Sufficiency graduate! She successfully completed her goals, and was presented with an escrow check of more than \$7,500.00.

The agency's FSS Program is a 5-year program that encourages residents to improve their employment, economic, and educational opportunities. For more information on the FSS Program, visit [www.HUD.gov](http://www.HUD.gov).



FSS Graduate Kellie Brown

## LHC'S PHILIP W. MILLER AWARD: APPLY TODAY!

LHC is currently taking applications for the "Philip W. Miller Award of Excellence" during the LHC Fall Conference. Interested applicants must exhibit a personal commitment to housing and redevelopment in our communities. The submission deadline is Tuesday, July 31st.

Applications will be reviewed by the LHC Nominating Committee, and the winner will be honored at the 2018 LHC Fall Conference in Lake Charles, Louisiana at the Philip W. Miller Award of Excellence Banquet.



Philip W. Miller



# NAHRO HONORS RUSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY EMPLOYEE FOR 46 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

By Carol Chaffer, Ruston Housing Authority

Earlier this year, maintenance professional Ronnie Lyons was awarded the Wm. S. Clements Award at the 2018 Annual Southwest NAHRO Maintenance Conference in Shreveport, LA. Lyons has worked in Ruston Housing Authority's Maintenance Department for over 46 years.

The Wm. S. Clements Award honors one outstanding maintenance professional each year at the Annual Southwest NARHO Maintenance Conference. This award is the most prestigious honor for a maintenance professional from NAHRO, and is named in honor of William S. Clements who provided exemplary service to this industry throughout his career.



Executive Director E. Woodrow Whittington, Jr. pictured with Ronnie Lyons

Lyons started as a Laborer in 1972 at the Ruston Housing Authority, and eventually progressed through the ranks of being a repairman to his current position as a Maintenance Supervisor. Ultimately, he has provided the Ruston Housing Authority with exemplary service in managing the maintenance department with a cooperative team-oriented attitude.

In 1999 the Farmerville Housing Authority came under the administration of the Ruston Housing Authority, adding an additional 40 unit complex to our inventory. Ronnie took on the additional responsibilities for the maintenance of those units. Taking a poorly maintained complex and within a very short period of time bringing the quality level up to excellent standards. Farmerville Housing Authority consistently achieves High Performer Status in PHA's.

On August 14-16, 2018, LHC will host its Annual Maintenance Workshop at the Paragon Casino Resort in Marksville, LA. Your company is invited to purchase a booth, and display your products or services at this meeting for the cost of \$400. The booths will be assigned on a first come/first serve basis, and will be available on August 14th at 8am.

If you are interested in renting a booth, please contact Vonda Waskom at [bha@bogalusaha.com](mailto:bha@bogalusaha.com).

**LHC NEEDS YOUR COMMUNITY AND EVENT PHOTOS!**

Attention Membership:

Please submit any photos you have of residents within your agency. The photos are needed for the 2019 Resident Calendars!

Deadline to submit photos is August 15th so please do not delay! Photos should be submitted to Terri by mail at: Iowa Housing Authority, Attn: Terri Touchet, P.O. Box 730, Iowa, La 70647 or via e-mail to [IHAterrifletcher@yahoo.com](mailto:IHAterrifletcher@yahoo.com).

For all photo submissions, please include your agency name and what event took place during the community.



# LHC ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITY



The Louisiana Housing Council of NAHRO Professional Development Committee is now offering the Executive Management and Leadership Training to its membership. This training will begin on Wednesday, August 1, 2018 and continue through Thursday, August 2, 2018. This seminar will be held at the Paragon Casino Resort in Marksville, La. Stacy Spann, NAHRO faculty member, will be the NAHRO facilitator/trainer for this training.

To ensure you have hotel accommodations, please make your reservations directly with Paragon Casino Resort by calling 1-800-642-7777. The hotel is offering a special room rate of \$93.00, plus tax, for a Standard room, and \$119.00, plus tax, for a Deluxe Atrium room. Reservations should be made

using the Louisiana Housing Council room block group code (La. Housing Council Executive Management Training – LHCA31G). Do not delay. Do not forget to bring your tax-exempt forms.

The Louisiana Housing Council is offering the Executive Management and Leadership Training at a rate of \$325.00 which includes lunch each day. Please note the registration deadline of Wednesday July 25, 2018.

## 2018 LHC CONFERENCE HONORS LA HOUSING AGENCIES



*Best Annual Report, Media Recognition, & Other Agency Publications - Shreveport Housing Authority*



*Best Newsletter - Dequincy Housing Authority*



*Other Agency Publications - Lafayette Housing Authority*



*Member of the Year - Pamela Adams*



*Commissioner of the Year - Willie Haynes*



# LHC TO RELAUNCH FACEBOOK PAGE

Attention Membership:

The LHC Public Relations Ad Hoc Committee announces the relaunch of the LHC Facebook Page!

Visit Louisiana Housing Council – NAHRO at [facebook.com/LouisianaHousingCouncil/](https://facebook.com/LouisianaHousingCouncil/) and Like and Follow to get updated information on events, conferences and what’s going on in and around Louisiana Housing Authorities.



Ms. Ashley Batiste

## CONGRATS TO ASHLEY BATISTE!

Ms. Ashley Batiste, a resident of Donaldsonville Housing Authority, recently received a law degree from Loyola University's College of Law. She is a single mother of two children, and has been a resident of Donaldsonville since 2008.

Congrats on your amazing achievement, and we wish you much success in your future endeavors!

## Upcoming Conferences

**NAHRO Summer Conference**  
**Innovate 2018: Imagine**  
July 27 - 29, 2018

**Location:**  
**San Francisco Marriott Marquis Hotel**  
**San Francisco, CA**



**LHC Fall Conference**  
September 11 - 14, 2018

**Location:**  
**L'Auberge Du Lac Resort**  
**777 Avenue L'Auberge**  
**Lake Charles, LA 70601**



**NAHRO Conference & Exhibition**  
**Innovate 2018: Implement**  
October 25 - 27, 2018

**Location:**  
**Hyatt Regency Atlanta**  
**Atlanta, GA**



**NAHRO Washington Conference**  
April 7 - 9, 2019

**Location:**  
**Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel**  
**Arlington, VA**

# GOING SMOKEFREE MATTERS

MULTIUNIT HOUSING



**There is no safe amount of secondhand smoke exposure. The home is the main place many children and adults breathe in secondhand smoke.<sup>1,2</sup>**

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General - Executive Summary. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vital signs: disparities in nonsmokers' exposure to secondhand smoke — United States, 1999–2012. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2015;64 (04):103-108.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov/tobacco](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco)