

Planning Underway for Conference in Anchorage

This year's Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) conference is heading to the Great Land of Alaska where planning is already underway by the Federation of Community Councils Inc. and Alaska Team NUSA to ensure another informative and enjoyable event for all participants.

The **2011 Great Land, Great Neighborhood** NUSA conference will be held in Anchorage with most of the activities taking place at the Egan Convention Center. The host hotel, Anchorage Hilton Hotel, is conveniently located just a couple of blocks away.

Despite the economic struggles that all of our communities are facing, NUSA is excited to have the opportunity to once again engage, empower and educate community leaders. Each year, the NUSA conference brings out the very best in those who attend and a result, they are able to return home with a new energy, enthusiasm and opportunities their neighborhoods can benefit from.

NUSA conference coordinators are collaborating with the various NUSA committees and community leaders to provide a broad spectrum of training and development. In addition to the standard NUSA program track, this year's conference will have six primary tracks:

- Housing
- Green Community Initiatives
- Multi-generational Community Building
- Grass Roots Organization
- Community Health & Recreation
- Community Safety

Conference planning teams are actively working on the workshop selection process, tour selection, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, meal planning and many other conference coordination activities.

Team NUSA has also already begun to garner support and collaborate with local community groups, organizations and non profits in Anchorage. That work began in early November when the Foraker Group — a local Anchorage non-profit group dedicated to guiding organizations down a path of health and sustainability — co-hosted a brown bag luncheon with Team NUSA. The luncheon provided an opportunity for Team NUSA to educate the Anchorage community about the NUSA organization and the upcoming conference.



For more information about the conference, visit www.nusa2011.org or contact Conference Coordinator Sheli Dodson at sheli@nusa2011.org.



Anchorage is a vibrant, eclectic metropolis with a frontier spirit and a rich history located in the heart of the great Alaskan wilderness. Photos courtesy of Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau

New Competition Recognizes Newsletters

A new competition to award excellence in neighborhood newsletters has been created by the Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Board of Directors. The newsletter competition was created to highlight the importance of a vital communication tool that often influences the success of a neighborhood.

The competition will feature three categories — neighborhood organizations, government entity and non profit organization or agency — with gold, silver and bronze level awards. Each entry will be evaluated by a jury panel using a list of criteria including content, layout, and overall appearance.

To enter the competition, two consec-

utive issues of a newsletter published in 2010 must be submitted with a completed application and fee and post-marked by February 15, 2011. Submission requirements and application guidelines can be found on the NUSA website, www.nusa.org.

Winners will be announced during the 2011 NUSA Conference which is being held May 25-28, 2011 in Anchorage, Alaska. Entrants need not be present to win.

For additional information or questions regarding the newsletter competition, contact Awards Program Chair Robert Gibbons at 608-244-0582 or robert.gibbons1@charter.net.

NUSA Accepting Applications for 2011 Neighborhood Awards

Each year neighborhood associations across the country do great things such as starting a new program or completing a special project that makes their neighborhood a better place. That's why Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) has been recognizing those efforts with its annual Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) awards.

Neighborhood associations may compete in three categories:

- Physical revitalization/beautification – projects that physically improve or enhance a neighborhood's parks, lighting, litter control, traffic, housing, green spaces or business district.
- Social revitalization/neighborliness – programs and activities that focus on the social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood and make neighbors feel connected to each other.
- Multi-neighborhood partnerships – physical or social revitalization projects, programs or activities that are produced by at least two neighborhood or community organizations.

A panel of national neighborhood leaders will review applications and select a minimum of four finalists in each category. Finalists will then compete for first, second and third place with in-person presentations to a judging panel at the 2011 NUSA conference which is being held May 25-28 in Anchorage, Alaska. The three first place winners will then be evaluated to determine the Grand Prize Winner. All winners will be announced and presented during the NOTY luncheon at the 2011 NUSA conference on Friday, May 27.

To be eligible for the 2011 award, projects must have been completed in 2010. Entries that have previously been considered for this award are ineligible.

Award submission requirements and application guidelines can be found on the NUSA website at www.nusa.org/awardapplications.htm. All Submissions must include the \$65 entry fee and be postmarked by February 15, 2011. For more information, contact Awards Program Chair Robert Gibbons at 608-244-0582 or robert.gibbons1@charter.net.

NUSA Recognizes Efforts by Neighborhood Partners with Annual Award

Established in 2007, the Best Neighborhood Program Award recognizes government entities, businesses and corporations who have implemented program to improve neighborhoods. The award is presented in two categories — Social Revitalization and Physical Revitalization.

To be eligible for the 2011 award, projects must have been completed in 2010.

Award submission requirements and application guidelines can be found on the NUSA website at www.nusa.org/awardapplications.htm.

All Submissions must include the \$100 entry fee and be postmarked by February 15, 2011. For more information, contact Awards Program Chair Robert Gibbons at 608-244-0582 or by email at robert.gibbons1@charter.net.



NUSA Affiliates Provide Direct Services to Communities across the Country

In many regions of the country Neighborhoods, USA is represented by affiliates that provide direct services at the community level. The affiliate network is comprised of organizations that are also committed to building, strengthening and preserving neighborhoods. There is no cost to become an affiliate, but an application form must be completed and approved by NUSA. The form can be found at www.nusa.org/membership.htm.

Current NUSA Affiliates

ALABAMA

Birmingham – Hands-On Youth Activities Program

Montgomery – Building Our Neighborhoods for Development and Success (BOND)

CALIFORNIA

Southern California Neighborhood Partners
Pasadena – Flintridge Operating Foundation

FLORIDA

Florida Neighborhoods Conference, Inc.
Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, Inc.

INDIANA

Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center

IOWA

Iowa Dept. Of Economic Development
Iowa Neighborhood Resource Center

NEW JERSEY

Millville Neighborhood Council

SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia Council of Neighborhoods
Greenville – Health Greenwood Neighborhoods, Inc.

TENNESSEE

Chattanooga Neighborhood Assoc. Council
Memphis – Uptown Community Association
Memphis Housing Authority Resident Advisory Board

WASHINGTON

Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County

WISCONSIN

Madison Neighborhoods, Inc.

INTERNATIONAL

Japan Association for Community Policy

Award Recognizes Individuals Committed to Neighborhoods

In 2009, the Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Board of Directors established the Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods award as a way to recognize individuals who are neighborhood leaders or who have an obvious and professional dedication to neighborhood issues at the grassroots level and have made their communities a better place to live, work and play.

The May 2010 Conference in Little Rock was the first time the Who's Who award was presented and it's time again to begin soliciting nominations for next year's award. Ideal candidates are individuals who work to promote NUSA's mission to build and strengthen neighborhoods, encourage neighborhood involvement in their local government's decision-making process and promote productive communication and collaboration between neighborhood associations, local government and the public/private sector.

Only current NUSA members may nominate an individual for the Who's Who award and only one nomination per member is allowed. Current NUSA board members are ineligible for

nomination. Members submitting a nomination must:

- Describe the nominee's neighborhood involvement.
- Explain the nominee's leadership in the community.
- Explain why the nominee has earned the award's recognition.

No more than four individuals will be selected each year for the Who's Who in American Neighborhoods Award. Recipients for 2011 must be able to attend the Neighborhood of the Year Awards Luncheon. The luncheon takes place during the annual NUSA Conference which is being held May 25-28 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Award submission requirements and application guidelines can be found on the NUSA website, www.nusa.org/awardapplications. Submissions must be postmarked by February 15, 2011. For more information, contact Awards Program Chair Robert Gibbons at 608-244-0582 or robert.gibbons1@charter.net.

NUSA Memberships Exemplifies Municipal Commitment to Neighborhoods

For more than 35 years Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) has been building and strengthening neighborhood organizations across the country by helping them develop partnerships with other neighborhoods, government and the private sector.

By becoming a NUSA municipal member, a municipality can demonstrate its commitment to establishing collaborative partnerships and advocating for resident participation in the governmental process.

A municipal membership also helps support the NUSA mission of providing an opportunity for residents, professionals, elected officials and members of the private sector to come together during an annual conference to share experiences and knowledge for building stronger communities together.

Municipal memberships are only \$100 per year and include a membership certificate and NUSA newsletter subscription.

Invitations to join NUSA have recently been sent to mayors across the country

and membership applications can be found at www.nusa.org/membership.

A list of current municipal membership is located below. If your city is not

listed and you wish to become a member, contact Karen Harber, NUSA Administrative Assistant, at 419-927-4710 or kharber1@woh.rr.com.

Current NUSA Municipal Memberships

AB-CANADA

Edmonton

ALASKA

Anchorage

ARIZONA

Chandler

Phoenix

Tempe

ARKANSAS

Fayetteville

CALIFORNIA

Buena Park

Chino Hills

Citrus Heights

Davis

Escondido

Lancaster

Long Beach

Monrovia

Pasadena

Riverside

FLORIDA

Coral Springs

Fort Lauderdale

Hollywood

Melbourne

Miramar

Orlando

Pinellas Park

ILLINOIS

Decatur

Rock Island

INDIANA

Indianapolis

KANSAS

Topeka

Wichita

MARYLAND

Westminster

MINNESOTA

Rochester

Minneapolis

MISSISSIPPI

Hattiesburg

MISSOURI

Gladstone

NEVADA

Las Vegas

N. CAROLINA

Winston-Salem

OHIO

Cincinnati

Dayton

OREGON

Eugene

Oregon City

S. CAROLINA

Spartanburg

TEXAS

Arlington

College Station

Fort Worth

Prosper

VIRGINIA

Chesapeake

Roanoke

WASHINGTON

Kent

Renton

Spokane

Tacoma

WISCONSIN

Madison

Get Involved by Running for the NUSA Board of Directors

If you are ready to make a difference by helping to build stronger neighborhoods and communities, now is the time to consider becoming a Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) board member.

NUSA is governed by a 22-member Board of Directors which directs the on-going business and policy of the organization, provides oversight for the implementation of each year's conference and plays a leadership role in promoting the organization and neighborhood work based on activism and self-help initiatives.

Board members serve three-year, staggered terms and are elected by the membership during the annual conference which will be held in Anchorage,

Alaska in May. Board members serve voluntarily and at their own expense.

For the next election, there will be 7 vacancies for the three-year-term of 2011-2014.

Prospective board member candidates must submit an application form and:

- Be a member of NUSA for at least one year.
- Have attended a NUSA conference within the past three years.
- Submit a 2"x3" or 3"x5" color photo with their application postmarked by Feb. 15, 2011.
- Attend a Running for the NUSA Board workshop before the election
- Attend the 2011 conference opening

breakfast.

- Attend the 2011 conference business meeting.
- Attend the 2011 closing luncheon.
- Attend the 2011-2012 NUSA board meetings in October, March and May.

All candidate's photos and qualifications will be published in the Spring issue of NUSA NEWS.

For more information about serving on the Board of Directors or to request an application form, contact Board Development Committee Chair Mike Gibson at mgdolphin@yahoo.com or by mail at 1027 South Queen Street, York, PA, 17403.

SAVE THE DATE: May 25-28, 2011

Neighborhoods, USA Conference

NUSA Comes to Anchorage, Alaska

- **40 WORKSHOPS**
Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced
- **12 NEIGHBORHOOD TOURS**
Diversity for all



Conference registration fees will be \$200, with a late registration fee of \$350

Please visit our website at www.nusa2011.org for more information