



National Fuel Funds Network

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Dear Member: Plans for the NFFN's 25th anniversary gala in Washington, DC will be announced during NFFN's Annual Membership Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, June 18 from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. at the Sheraton Denver. The meeting will conclude before the start of the National Energy Affordability and Utility Conference's daily schedule.

During the membership meeting, NFFN members will meet new Board of Directors members. The Network will award plaques to 20 donors of \$5,000 or more, and members will hear the financial report and vote on a resolution supporting additional funding for LIHEAP.

NFFN executive director George Coling urged members to visit the membership table where they can register for the Victorine Q. Adams Institute in September, Washington Action Day for LIHEAP on February 11, and the 25th anniversary event, in Washington on February 10.

More than 700 conferees are expected to attend the national conference, which for the first time combines the former NFFN annual conference and that of the National Low Income Energy Consortium (NLIEC) conference.

Surveys and Reports

- Low-income households have made significant sacrifices in order to cope with increased home energy and gasoline costs according to a survey by the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA).

The survey found that 70 percent of the low-income households surveyed said they reduced purchases of food, 31 percent said they reduced purchases of medicine, and 10 percent said they changed plans for their education or their children's education because of the high energy costs.

Additionally, the survey showed that despite these sacrifices 29 percent of low-income and 20 percent of moderate-income households said they skipped paying their home energy bill or paid less than the full bill, 8 percent of low-income and 8 percent of moderate-income households said they had their electricity shut off and 12 percent of low-income and 4 percent of moderate-income households said they had their natural gas shut off.

The complete NEADA survey is available at www.neada.org.

Utility Actions

- The Entergy Corporation has announced a new name for the fuel funds operated by the company's subsidiaries: The Power to Care. The new name will be used by Entergy fuel funds in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Linda Barnes, manager of low-income initiatives at Entergy, said, "Moving to a single name – The Power to Care – will maximize the impact of all our promotional efforts."

In 2007, Entergy customers and employees donated \$1.7 million to help needy customers pay their bills. Entergy shareholders matched those donations with a contribution of approximately \$700,000.

- Excelerate Energy will donate \$450,000 to two North Shore Massachusetts agencies for low income fuel assistance and energy conservation projects. Company executives said the donation is part of a three year \$5 million commitment to aid such programs.

Action, Inc. of Gloucester will receive \$200,000 and North Shore Community Action Programs, Inc (NSCAP) of Peabody will receive \$250,000.

Calendars

- The 2009 Energy Saver Calendars from Project Energy Savers are now available for orders. The calendars provide energy saving tips that are relevant to all families and can be an ideal vehicle for providing customized information about your agency's energy assistance, efficiency and weatherization programs. For more information about the calendars visit www.projectenergysavers.com.

Reminder

- NFFNs' Victorine Q. Adams Institute is the first and only program focused exclusively on fundraising for charitable energy assistance. Online registration for the Institute, in Baltimore on September 16 -17, is now open.

The Network has convened a team of fuel fund development specialists and utility partners to plan the first in-depth forum for both improving current practices and developing new fundraising strategies in volatile times. The Institute's program addresses fundraising issues of both nonprofit and utility members and of both large and small fuel funds. It provides peer-to-peer training for those new to the field and for those with many years' experience, for mature programs and start up fuel funds.

To view the exciting program schedule and to register, please visit <http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org/Whatshappening/VQAIstitute.html>.