

National *Energy* Assistance Report

THE EFFORTS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

From the Chair



By **Greg Sawyers**, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National Fuel Funds Network and Director of Customer Service at Citizens Gas & Coke Utility, Indianapolis, IN.

Our nation's home energy crisis continues to expand and worsen. More households than ever are seeking help with paying the bills that keep home and hearth together.

Prices for nearly every type of home energy are at all time highs and forecasts indicate that the prices will not come down in the near future. Home heating oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, you name it. The prices for these fuels have risen continually over the last few years.

Daily, it becomes more difficult for many people to make ends meet.

The number of households with outstanding utility bills is at record levels. A recent study showed that at the end of March 15.6 million households were in arrears, owing nearly \$5 billion to utilities.

The National Energy Assistance Directors Association reports that the number of households receiving aid through LIHEAP rose to 5.8 million, the highest total in 16 years.

While the number of households receiving assistance through LIHEAP has increased, the size of the average federal energy assistance grant has dropped nearly 20 percent from \$464 to \$378 since FY 2006.

To make matters worse, skyrocketing gasoline and diesel prices have had the double barreled effect of causing pain at the pump, as well as leading to increased costs for food and other goods.

These are indeed difficult times for many Americans.

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NFFN's Highest Honor Goes to Carol Clements

The National Fuel Fund Network's highest honor, the Sister Pat Kelley Award, this year will be presented to former NFFN Board Chairperson and long time member of the energy assistance community Carol Clements.

Ms. Clements served as NFFN Board Chairperson from 2002 to 2006 and played a vital role in increasing the organization's membership and national profile. Ms. Clements was also very instrumental in the development and growth of the NFFN's Washington Action Day for LIHEAP, which has become the premier grassroots lobbying effort on behalf of the federal energy assistance program. Her tenure saw unprecedented growth in NFFN's membership and revenue.



Carol Clements

A former executive director of the Victorine Q. Adams Fuel Fund in Baltimore, Ms. Clements is currently using her considerable knowledge and skill in preparing for the Network's Victorine Q. Adams Institute on fundraising in September.

The Victorine Q. Adams Award, which honors institutional innovation and achievement among nonprofit agencies, will be presented to Oregon Heat for its creative collaboration with an oil recycler in designing a program to help lessen the energy burden of low income Oregon residents and reduce the level of petroleum waste products in the state.

The partnership between Oregon Heat and the Oil Re-Refining Company (ORRCO) allows homeowners to donate unwanted home heating oil and allows businesses that generate contaminated petroleum products to have them recycled all to the benefit of the low income residents of the community. ORRCO is an Oregon based firm that has been

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From the Chair (continued from page 1)

So it is in the midst of this crisis that we come to Denver for the first National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference. For the first time, the NFFN and the National Low Income Energy Consortium have joined together to meet under one banner.

We obviously have much to discuss, and this unified conference provides ample opportunity for us to share our ideas, practices and innovations for coping with these difficult times.

This year's conference will offer almost 70 workshops and panel discussions covering a broad spectrum of issues from fundraising to advocacy, from outreach to management and from innovations to best practices.

The schedule is packed with interesting and informative sessions that will explore the latest developments in the fields of weatherization and conservation, energy programs in Indian Country, consumer education and services, and vulnerable populations among others.

This conference will also look to the future with discussions of issues and trends including the impact of energy policy on low income households and the ramifications of climate control legislation for the poor.

While this new format for the conference may seem different to some participants, there will also be many familiar things from previous conferences. The NFFN's popular media fair and silent auction will still be held, and the fast moving, informative "Hot Topics" sessions remain part of the schedule.

Finally, this will be my last column because I am resigning as NFFN Board Chair. I will however remain on the Board of Directors. So

I would like to thank the members of the NFFN Board and the staff in Washington for all their help during the past two years. Together we have accomplished much, but there is much more to do. I look forward to continuing the progress we have made.



NFFN's Highest Honor Goes to Carol Clements

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recognized internationally for its petroleum recycling expertise.

According to Roger Rees, executive director of Oregon HEAT, homeowners decommissioning their oil tanks can donate their remaining home heating oil to Oregon HEAT. ORRCO will pickup, clean and recycle the donated oil and the value of the recycled oil will be used to provide assistance for families in need.



The NFFN's Corporate Excellence Award will be given to PECO – an Exelon Company for its commitment to providing services and assistance to low-income customers in the Philadelphia area.



The gas and electric utility is being recognized for its role as an advocate for low-income rate payers on the local, state and national level, as well as its use of innovative programs and aggressive outreach to address energy/poverty issues within its service area.

The National Fuel Funds Network's Extra Mile Award will also be presented at the conference. The award is given in recognition of a member of Congress' support of and efforts in behalf of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) during the last 12 months.

The award is presented to the member who has gone the "extra mile" to support LIHEAP. Last year Senator Mark Pryor of Arkansas received the award which was presented to him at his office on Capitol Hill.

Previous winners include Rep. Bobby Rush of Illinois and Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine in 2006, Rep. Bernie Sanders of Vermont in 2005, Senator Hillary Clinton of New York in 2004, and Senators Susan Collins of Maine and Jack Reed of Rhode Island in 2003.

As we go to press, the selection process has not been completed but the next issue of the *National Energy Assistance Report* will carry the full story.

Energy Policy and Climate Change Major Issues at National Conference

Energy policy and climate change legislation will be featured topics when the low income energy assistance community meets in Denver June 16 - 18 for the first National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference.

More than 700 conferees are expected to come to the Mile High City to attend the reformatted conference that for the first time combines the former annual conferences of the National Fuel Funds Network and the National Low Income Energy Consortium.

Following a welcome by Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper and addresses by NLIEC Chair Cindy Datig and NFFN Chairperson Greg Sawyers, the conference goes into full swing with a variety of workshops and discussion groups.

The conference offers eight broad subject tracks and 64 workshops covering the major issues facing the low income energy assistance community. Conference goers will have many opportunities to interact with their peers from around the country as well to participate in meaningful and informative discussions.



Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper

Providing services to vulnerable populations, improving outreach and advocacy techniques, consumer education and services, and the nuts and bolts of running a fuel fund are just some of the areas of interest the workshops will address. Other workshop topics include weatherization and energy conservation, energy programs in Indian Country and the evolution of utility programs and services.

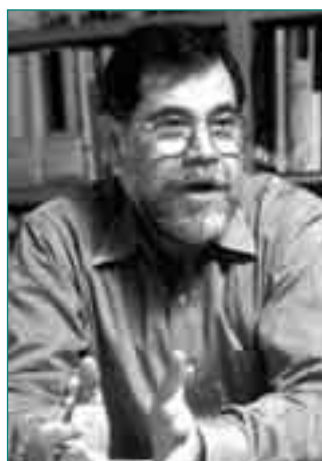
The larger issues of global climate change and energy policy will be highlighted with sessions featuring an array of experts in their field.

Energy Policy and its impact on consumer prices will be the subject of a plenary session forum moderated by Dr. Patricia Limerick of the University of Colorado-Boulder. Dr. Limerick is considered one of the leading historians on the history of the American west.

Also participating in that panel will be:

- Alan Noguee of the Union of Concerned Scientists has more than 20 years of experience as an energy analyst and advocate. He is a widely respected authority on renewable energy.
- Jim Sims is the president and CEO of the Western Business Roundtable. He served as Director of Communications for the National Energy Policy Development Group during the Bush administration.
- Janee Briesemeister is a senior legislative representative for the State Consumer Issues Team at AARP.

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From Left to right; Dr. Patricia Limerick, Alan Noguee, Robert Greenstein and Rafe Pomerance

Energy Policy and Climate Change Major Issues at National Conference

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A discussion of climate change legislation and its impact on low income families will be led by Joel Eisenberg of the Oak Ridge Laboratory and will feature:

- Robert Greenstein the founder and Executive Director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. He is considered an expert on the federal budget and a range of domestic policy issues including low-income assistance programs, various aspects of tax policy, and Social Security
- Rafe Pomerance founder of the Climate Policy Center and President of Clean Air –Cool Planet. His organizations work to develop solutions to global warming. He was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Clinton Administration.
- John Howat who specializes in energy and telecommunications at National Consumer Law Center. Prior to joining the Center, Howat was a consultant and technical analyst on regulatory, legislative, and communications services to energy consumers and other utility entities.

Kateri Callahan, president of the Alliance to Save Energy, will be a featured luncheon speaker. The Alliance to Save Energy promotes energy efficiency in the United States and worldwide as the most abundant energy resource.

The NFFN and the NLIEC have joined with the Alliance in a new campaign designed to help Americans reduce gasoline usage. The Drive \$marter Challenge will educate drivers in the many ways they can reduce their gasoline consumption.

In addition to the regular workshops, there will be “Hot Topics” sessions where conferees can listen to lively 20 minute presentations on subjects ranging from Washington Action Day for LIHEAP to fire prevention to fund raising innovations.

Conferees will also have the opportunity to tour the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, CO.

On the final day of the conference, the NFFN will hold its annual awards presentation. The winners of the Sister Pat Kelley, the Victorine Q. Adams, the Corporate Excellence, and the Extra Mile awards will be honored.

The NFFN’s popular silent auction and media fair will be conducted during the conference.

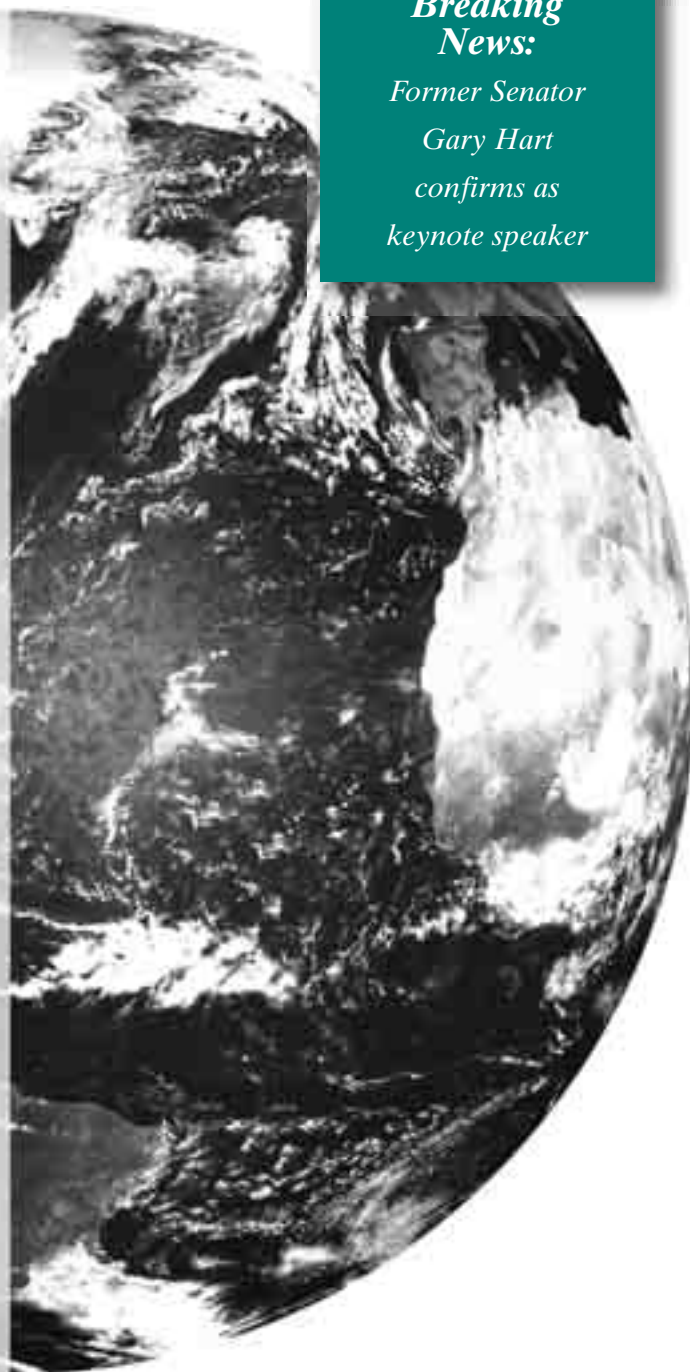
Breaking News:

Former Senator

Gary Hart

confirms as

keynote speaker



Register Now for the Victorine Q. Adams Institute

Now is the time to register for NFFN's Victorine Q. Adams Institute, a landmark forum that is designed to help NFFN members and other nonprofit organizations improve their skills in the highly competitive area of fundraising.

The two days of workshops and discussions will focus on best practices and innovations, as well as the development of fundraising strategies. The continuing home energy crisis and the downturn in the nation's economy have increased the fundraising burden for NFFN members and other nonprofits. The Adams Institute's inaugural session is targeted at easing that burden.

The Institute is the brainchild of fuel fund visionary and social activist, the late Victorine Q. Adams, who constantly stressed the importance of innovative fund raising. The Victorine Q. Adams Institute will be held September 16 and 17 at the Tremont Plaza Hotel in Baltimore.

Some of the most resourceful and creative minds inside the energy assistance field and out will take part in sessions that will cover every aspect of fundraising from using the internet as a fundraising tool to accessing more traditional fundraising sources like foundations.

Workshop topics will include accessing state and local government funds, increasing board member involvement in fundraising, building technical capacity for energy assistance fundraising, reaching best practices for utility companies, partnering with non-utility energy companies, basics of fuel fund fundraising for those new to the field, and effectively using the internet for fundraising.

The featured speaker at the Institute will be Dr. Laura Otten, Director, The Nonprofit Center at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, who will discuss board development and involvement in fundraising.

"Fundraising is an important aspect of the work that we do," said NFFN Executive Director George Coling. "Don't miss the opportunity to increase your skills, improve your techniques or learn a new approach to this vital segment of all of your operations." NFFN welcomes representatives of utilities, nonprofits and government agencies to participate.

For more information on the Institute's program and on-line registration, visit the National Fuel Funds Network website at www.nationalfuelfunds.org, and click on the Victorine Q. Adams Institute.

NFFN Membership Continues to Grow

The NFFN has welcomed a score of new members during the last 12 months. Since the Network last met in Nashville last June, 20 agencies, governmental departments, utilities and individuals have joined the NFFN.

The new members will be feted at a special breakfast in Denver on Monday, June 16, the opening day of the National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference.

The new agency members, with their respective NFFN contact person, are Marsha Belcher of the CEDA – Community and Economic Development Association; R. Scott Barnette from the Colorado Department of Human Services – LEAP; Leslie Colbrese from Allegany County Human Resources Development; Joseph H. Conrad of Community Action of Northeast Indiana, Inc.; Arlene McAtee from Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.; Larry Cogburn of the Central Arkansas Development Council, Inc. and Jan Marcason Councilwoman from the 4th District, Kansas City.

The new governmental department members are Joel Riddle from the Clarksville/Montgomery County CAA; Colette Harrell from The Breathing Association; Margaret Garcia of the Pueblo of Jemez LIHEAP; A. Antonio Coffield, Sr. from the Community Assistance Network; Gayle Cunningham of the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity; Vincent Clark from Kankakee County Community Services, Inc. and Rosale Tripp representing the Southern Good Faith Fund.

The two utility/association members that joined are Deb Cochenour of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania and Eric Degesero of the Fuel Merchants Association of NJ. The new individual members are Kathleen Walgren of Non-Profit Leadership Excellence, Stephanie Hartley of the United Tribes of Kansas and S.E. Nebraska, John Pettijohn of Wabash Area Development, Inc. and Delia Perez of San Antonio.

REMINDER

Don't forget to turn your everyday online shopping into philanthropy by visiting www.iGive.com/nffn. The broad selection of merchants featured at this site will donate a portion of your purchase dollars to NFFN.



THANKS TO...

...Entergy Charitable Foundation

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The *National Energy Assistance Report*, a quarterly publication of the National Fuel Funds Network, is free to members and available by subscription at \$20/year. Editor, George Coling, NFFN Executive Director, and Reporter, Ivan Brandon. We welcome articles, news items and calendar events. To submit material, contact NFFN, 1010 Vermont Avenue, NW Suite 718, Washington DC 20005; 202-824-0660 or info@nationalfuelfunds.org.

Bulletin Board

National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference

Presented by National Fuel Funds Network and

National Low Income Energy Consortium

Adam's Mark Hotel, Denver, CO

June 16-18, 2008

Victorine Q. Adams Institute

Tremont Plaza Hotel, Baltimore, MD

September 16-17, 2008

NFFN's 25th Anniversary Gala

Washington, DC

February 10, 2009

NFFN's Washington Action Day for LIHEAP

February 11, 2009



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