

Housing For All

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Washington, DC

Speaker Biographies

TOM SALOMONE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Tom Salomone, a REALTOR® from Coral Springs, Fla., is the 2016 President of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (NAR). He has been a licensed real estate agent for more than 40 years. He is a second generation REALTOR® and Broker/Owner of Real Estate II, Inc., a firm specializing in residential real estate.

He is currently President of NAR's Board of Directors and Leadership Team, and Chair of the Executive Committee. He is also a proud member of the Women's Council of REALTORS® North Broward Chapter. Mr. Salomone was NAR's 2015 President-Elect and 2014 First Vice President. In 2012, he served as NAR's Director of REALTOR® Party Activities. He has served many leadership positions in both NAR and the Florida Association of REALTORS®. He was named Florida's REALTOR® of the Year in 2005.

Mr. Salomone uses his experience in business and sports to serve the community through a number of different organizations, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. He has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce, a Coral Springs Charter School Business Sponsor, and a Water Control District Supervisor. He has coached more than 46 sports teams in local city leagues and been a member of the Amateur Athletic Union and the U.S. Specialty Sports Association. He volunteers with organizations to prevent heart disease and cancer and attends St. Andrew's Church. He is the proud father of two sons, TJ and Bryce, and husband to his lovely wife, Diana.

ELIZABETH MENDENHALL, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Elizabeth Mendenhall, a REALTOR® from Columbia, Mo., is the 2016 First Vice President of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. She is also the CEO for RE/MAX Boone Realty in Columbia and has been a REALTOR® for 19 years. RE/MAX named her the "Mid-States Missouri Broker-Owner of the Year" in 2009 and the "International Broker Manager of the Year" in 2006. She is a sixth-generation REALTOR®.

She has received designations as an Accredited Buyer Representative (ABR®), Accredited Buyer Representative Manager (ABRM), Certified International Property Specialist (CIPS), Council of Real Estate Brokerage Managers (CRB), Performance Management Network (PMN), e-PRO® specialist, Learning Certified Instructor (LCI), and is a Graduate of the REALTOR® Institute (GRI). She is a member of the Women's Council of REALTORS® (WCR) and the Real Estate Buyer's Agent Council. On the national level, Mrs. Mendenhall currently serves on NAR's Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Leadership Team. She chaired the Strategic Planning Committee in 2012 and served as Vice President of Committees in 2011. She was the NAR Liaison to Association Leadership in 2008. In 2010, the Missouri Association of REALTORS® elected her president. She also served as president of the Missouri WCR in 2004. The Missouri WCR named her "Business Woman of the Year" and "Member of the Year," in 2007. For her local association, the Columbia Board of REALTORS®, Mrs. Mendenhall chaired the Professional Standards Committee in 2012. She served as president and was named their "REALTOR® of the Year" in 2003. Active in her community; she has served on the board of directors for the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, the local United Way, and Job Point. She also founded and served as the first president of the Mid-Missouri Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. In 2001, the Columbia Business Times named her in their "40 Under 40" inaugural class.

SHERRI MEADOWS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Sherri Meadows, a REALTOR® from Ocala, Fla., is the 2016 Vice President of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. A REALTOR® for more than 33 years, Mrs. Meadows is broker/owner of three Keller Williams offices in Gainesville, Ocala, and Summerfield, Fla., specializing in luxury and international properties and farms. She has the professional designations of a Certified International Property Specialist (CIPS); Certified Real Estate Manager (CRB); Performance Management Network (PMN); and is a Graduate, REALTOR® Institute (GRI). Passionate about NAR, Sherri has served on the Board of Directors since 2007. She chaired the REALTOR® Party Member Involvement Committee in 2013 and the Membership Structure Audit Presidential Advisory Group in 2012. The Florida Association of REALTORS® (FAR) elected her their president in 2014. She has served on FAR's Board of Directors since 2003. In 2015, Mrs. Meadows was named their REALTOR® of the Year, and in 2007, they awarded her the REALTOR® Achievement Award. The Ocala/Marion County Association of REALTORS® elected her their president in 2002. She has served on numerous committees and task forces.

In 2009, Mrs. Meadows was appointed to the Marion County Land Development Regulation Commission. In the same year, Governor Charlie Crist appointed her to the board of Florida Health Choices Inc., Florida's health insurance exchange website. She has served as vice-chair of the Florida Health Choices board since 2009. Mrs. Meadows studied accounting at the University of Florida. She and her family share a love of the real estate profession and work together at their Keller Williams offices. They enjoy spending time together on their farm.

OPENING DOORS

MEAGHAN HUSTINGS, NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Ms. Hustings came to NCH as an AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer in 2006. After her year of service, she was hired as Development Director, moving on to be the Director of Operations before stepping into the interim director role. Ms. Hustings is a 2001 graduate of Grinnell College in Iowa. She has worked for a variety of anti-poverty efforts since childhood. In previous employment, Ms. Hustings provided case management and life-skills training for individuals with developmental disabilities, and managed electronic journal and database subscriptions for university libraries. She enjoys spending time with her daughter and crafting oddities.

MARIETTA RODRIGUEZ, NEIGHBORWORKS AMERICA

Marietta Rodriguez knows what it's like to be a new homebuyer because she was one. "I was 25 and living in a high-cost area," she says. "There was absolutely no way I could buy a home without someone holding my hand and walking me through it." The people holding her hand were from a NeighborWorks network organization that provided counseling and financial assistance to first-time homebuyers. Soon, Ms. Rodriguez went to work for the organization that assisted her so that she could help more people in her hometown. Today, she leads the national homeownership effort for the NeighborWorks network, which includes a suite of pre-purchase, mortgage lending, and post-purchase programs and services. Ms. Rodriguez has been with NeighborWorks for 15 years. In her first position as management consultant in the Rocky Mountain Region, she focused on helping member organizations build their homeownership business capacity. Prior to joining NeighborWorks, Ms. Rodriguez was the director of training and community relations for Neighborhood Housing Services of Santa Fe, now called Homewise - the NeighborWorks network organization that helped her buy her first home. She has a Bachelor of Arts in international relations and Spanish from Lake Forest College.

MICHAEL STEGMAN, BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

Dr. Michael Stegman is a fellow for housing policy at the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC). Dr. Stegman joins BPC from the Obama administration, where he served as a senior housing advisor at both the National Economic Council and the Treasury Department. He brings to BPC a distinguished career in housing policy. In addition to his recent public service, Dr. Stegman served as assistant secretary for policy development and research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and was a member of the Welfare Reform Working Group during the Clinton administration. He is a distinguished professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he taught and conducted research on affordable housing policy. He has written extensively on housing and urban policy, community development, financial services for the poor, and asset development policies.

DIANE YENDEL, NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

Diane Yentel is the newly appointed President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a membership organization dedicated solely to achieving socially just public policy that assures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes. This is her second stint at NLIHC, having previously worked as a policy analyst from 2005 to 2008. Ms. Yentel is a veteran affordable housing policy expert and advocate with nearly two decades of work on affordable housing and community development issues. Before rejoining NLIHC, she was Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs at Enterprise Community Partners, where she led federal, state and local policy, research and advocacy programs. Prior to Enterprise, she was the director of the Public Housing Management and Occupancy Division at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), where she managed a team overseeing the development and implementation of nationwide public housing policies, procedures and guidelines. She also worked to advance affordable housing policies with Oxfam America and the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, and was a community development Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia. Ms. Yentel has a Masters in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin.

THE NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

LAWRENCE YUN, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Lawrence Yun is Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of Research at the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. He oversees and is responsible for a wide range of research activity for the association including NAR's Existing Home Sales statistics, Affordability Index, and Home Buyers and Sellers Profile Report. He regularly provides commentary on real estate market trends for its 1 million REALTOR® members.

Dr. Yun creates NAR's forecasts and participates in many economic forecasting panels, among them the Blue Chip Council and the Harvard University Industrial Economist Council. He appears regularly on financial news outlets, is a frequent speaker at real estate conferences throughout the United States, and has testified before Congress. Dr. Yun appears often as a guest on CSPAN's Washington Journal and is a regular guest columnist on the Forbes website. Dr. Yun received his undergraduate degree from Purdue University and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland at College Park.

SUSAN GASTON, THE GASTON GROUP

Susan S. Gaston, President of the Gaston Group, is a government relations and public affairs consultant. Ms. Gaston has been involved in the political and legislative fields for most of her life, having watched her father lobby for the oil and gas industries at the state and federal levels for nearly two decades. With nearly 20 years of governmental affairs and lobbying experience before the Virginia General Assembly, regulatory agencies and various local government bodies, she has created strong relationships and contacts with elected and appointed officials, as well as professional staffs, at the local, state and federal levels, and on both sides of the political aisle. She is experienced in running effective grassroots and grassstops campaigns that focus on community advocacy and earned media. Ms. Gaston is a former intern and staff member in the Washington, D.C. office of U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and is a graduate of the College of William and Mary with a degree in American Government. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in Human Resources Development from The George Washington University.

INSPIRED FOR CHANGE

JEREMY COWART, JEREMYCOWART.COM AND SEEUNIVERSITY.COM

Recently named the "Most Influential Photographer on the Internet" by *Huffington Post*, *Forbes* and *Yahoo!*, Mr. Cowart is a husband, father, Emmy-nominated celebrity photographer, entrepreneur, teacher, and he tries to give back as often as possible. He founded a global photography movement called Help-Portrait, an iPhone app called OKDOTHIS, as well as an online teaching platform called *See University*. His goal in life is to use his voice, ideas and creativity to inspire and help others. He lives the simple life in Nashville, TN with his wife and four children, two of which were recently adopted from Haiti.

RENTAL AFFORDABILITY: IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

DICK LARIMER, MAKE ROOM

Dick Larimer is the Director of Digital for Make Room, a national advocacy campaign to give voice to struggling renters and elevate rental housing on the agendas of our nation's leaders, sponsored by Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. In this capacity, Dick has overseen the marketing strategy across digital channels (website, email, social and advertising) and managed the content production of all digital media since the launch in May 2015. No media format has gone unused in his effort to find innovative, engaging vehicles to carry the message of rental unaffordability. His work was recognized by The Webby Awards as a 2016 Official Honoree for Activism. Prior to joining Make Room, Dick spent ten years at Microsoft creating a slate of original web series and digital experiences on MSN as well as developing branded content strategies for the network. He began his career at Merrill Lynch, introducing streaming media to the Global Research Group with postage stamp-sized video streamed at 28.8kps.

SARAH EDELMAN, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

Sarah Edelman is the Director of Housing Policy at the Center for American Progress. Her work focuses on foreclosure prevention, single-family rental, and promoting access to affordable housing. Edelman's publications have been cited by The Financial Times, MSNBC, and Bloomberg, among others, and have been used as a resource by numerous advocacy and community groups across the country. Prior to American Progress, Edelman worked in the areas of community development, community organizing, and consumer protection at Public Citizen, Community Legal Services, the office of Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC, Division of Consumer Protection. Early in her career, Edelman served as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador and an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in Philadelphia. Edelman holds a master's degree from the University of Maryland School of Public Policy and a bachelor's degree from The George Washington University.

BUWA BINITIE, DANTES PARTNERS

Mr. Binitie has an extensive tax credit financing experience (LIHTC, NMTC and HTC) and has closed on financing from nearly every public capital source available including HOME, HPTF, NSP, CDBG and NIF. Mr. Binitie's maintains a narrow focus on creatively structuring deals that strive to address the need of his clients, community stakeholders as well as various government agency partners. By narrowly focusing on efficiently financing community development transactions, Mr. Binitie has been successful in adding value beyond the numbers. To date Mr. Binitie and his team are currently managing more than \$200 million in assets. As Managing Principal of Dantes Partners, Mr. Binitie directs the acquisition, development, management and financial activities of the firm. Mr. Binitie's career is underscored by a commitment to creating and preserving affordable and workforce housing. To this end, Since founding Dantes Partners, Mr. Binitie and his team have closed more than \$219 million of unconventional real estate transactions that utilize low-income tax credits, new market tax credits, tax-exempt bonds and a various other forms of alternative financing. These efforts have lead to the creation of more than 700 units of workforce and affordable housing. Mr. Binitie speaks regularly at industry focused events. Recent engagements include sessions with The Minority Resource, African-American Real Estate Professionals, Biz Now, DC Building Industry Association, Georgetown University, University of Maryland – Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development and the Howard University Real Estate Club. Mr. Binitie received a B.S. from New York University and an M.S. in Real Estate Development from Johns Hopkins University and is also an alumnus of the Urban Land Institute's Real Estate Apprenticeship Program.

SHARING INNOVATIVE IDEAS

CHERYL LAMBERT, FLORIDA REALTORS®/ONLY WAY REALTY

Cheryl Lambert, Broker-Office Manager with Only Way Realty in Inverness, served as the 2014 District 7 vice president and is currently running uncontested as the candidate for 2017 Secretary of Florida REALTORS®, the state's largest professional association. She is a member of the REALTORS® Association of Citrus County.

A leader in regional and state real estate organizations, Ms. Lambert served as 2013 president of the Citrus County Association, and chair of its strategic planning committee. She is currently chairing an Affordable Housing Presidential Advisory Group at Florida REALTORS®, in addition to her roles as chair of Local Board Presidents Info Exchange, chair of Attainable workforce housing and vice chair of Research. She is a member of the state association's board of directors, a graduate of Florida REALTORS® Leadership Academy, and has served on various committees and forums. In the community, Ms. Lambert has served on the Citrus County Planning and Development Roundtable team, and the Affordable Housing Coalition. She was appointed a member of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee for Citrus County. Lambert believes that REALTORS® are key advocates for homeownership and leaders in civic and charitable organizations. "I have never known a more giving group of professionals than the REALTOR® organization at all levels," she says. "Our members are always volunteering their time for their personal charities, local events and other community activities."

PAUL E. HILGERS, AUSTIN BOARD OF REALTORS®

Paul Hilgers is a native of Austin, Texas, with most of his professional career in public service. After receiving his B. A., in Political Science from Whittier College, he received his Master of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. He worked for the city of Austin and Governor Mark White's Office planning and implementing employment and training programs. He served as the District Director for U. S. Congressman J. J. "Jake" Pickle of the 10th Congressional District from 1985 to 1994. He also served as the Director, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development for the city of Austin, where he managed federal and local housing and community development programs, including the expansion of the Austin Housing Finance Corporation, a state chartered entity that issues housing bonds and tax credits. He also led the city of Austin's effort to secure housing for 4300 evacuees from Hurricane Katrina in 2005. On February 1, 2013 he became the CEO of the Austin Board of REALTORS®. The Austin Board of REALTORS® is a well-established association of more than 12,000 REALTORS® in the Central Texas area. He is married to Nancy Nieman Hilgers and they have two grown children, John and Sydney.

TERRI MARSHALL, CHARLOTTE REGIONAL REALTOR® ASSOCIATION (NC)

Terri Marshall has been executive director of the Charlotte Regional REALTOR® Association's Housing Opportunity Foundation, the recognized charitable arm of the association, since 2007. She is instrumental in raising operating and program funds, partnering in advocacy efforts on behalf of affordable workforce housing and facilitating the Workforce Housing Certificate Program. Ms. Marshall also oversees and manages a comprehensive fund distribution process through the foundation's two formal grant programs (Community Grants Program and the Habitat Support Grant Program). Under her leadership, the foundation works to determine how best to impact critical housing issues utilizing the REALTOR® membership within four core areas: funding, education, advocacy and leadership. As a result of several years of planning, the foundation launched the first-ever REALTORS® Care Day on April 24, 2009 in recognition of April's National Fair Housing Month; this program has continued every year and involves more than 700 REALTOR® volunteers annually. In June of this year, the foundation also established the inaugural Strides For Shelter 5K Run / Walk to benefit the construction of a new 120 unit apartment complex in Charlotte for the chronically homeless. At this time, it is the only 5K Run/Walk dedicated to housing initiatives in the region. Ms. Marshall believes fully in demonstrating the Housing Opportunity Foundation's vision: "REALTORS® affecting a better quality of life for the region."

NANCY MERCER, CORPORATION FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

LCSW has over thirty years of experience in the housing, disability, policy and advocacy worlds. As Director for the Mid-Atlantic Region, Ms. Mercer oversees all of CSH's training, lending, technical assistance, and systems change work in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC. She is responsible for setting the direction and annual goals for the region, and fundraising to cover the Program's local costs. She also directly provides training, technical support, and advisement to numerous supportive housing providers and public funding agencies. Prior to CSH, Ms. Mercer worked for Virginia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services as a Community Integration Manager. In this role, she provided the leadership required to transition the 137 men, women, families, staff and stakeholders from a lifetime of institutional care to homes of his/her own in the community.

LUNCH SPEAKER

MATTHEW DOHERTY, UNITED STATE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Matthew Doherty brings to his role more than 22 years of leadership in both the private and public sectors, focused on the creation and integration of housing, services programs and economic opportunities for communities and households. Prior to becoming USICH's Executive Director, Mr. Doherty served as Director of National Initiatives, guiding the agency's work with state and local partners for the implementation of *Opening Doors*.

Mr. Doherty has held leadership positions at the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the San Diego Housing Commission and the King County Housing Authority in Washington state, and has also served as a consultant to local agencies across the country. He ensures that such community-based perspectives inform federal actions to support and drive progress across the country. He has a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Washington.

HUD INNOVATION IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING – STUDENT DESIGN AND PLANNING COMPETITION

RACHELLE LEVITT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

Rachelle Levitt is the Director, Research Utilization at Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research. Rachelle manages the Affordable Housing Design Competition and the coordination of these efforts with the department's programs. She is also the editor/publisher of the HUD publication Evidence Matters. Prior to joining HUD, Rachelle was the Executive Vice President of the Urban Land Institute, a non-profit real estate and land use planning association, where she was responsible for the management of the research and publishing of all ULI books on real estate development, economic development, and land use planning, including such topics as sustainable development; urban regeneration; affordable housing; real estate finance; development of retail, office, industrial, resort, and residential real estate.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND DESIGN TEAM

Finalists from the HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Design Competition created a new construction development which includes 48 affordable housing units within 19 three-story town houses, 14 two-story townhouses, and a four-story multifamily development that includes a food co-op, a community center, and easy access to a community garden nearby.

- Meghan Leahy
- David Brotman
- Oluwatobi Thomas
- Robert Grooms