



Legislative Days

March 23th-25th, 2010

Title Sponsor - Blue Cross Blue Shield | Conference Sponsor - Alabama Housing Finance Authority

Legislative Days Overview

We invite you to join us in celebration of the work of Habitat for Humanity in Alabama!

It with great pleasure that the Alabama Association of Habitat Affiliates invites you to attend the Seventh annual Awards Luncheon and Legislative Days in Montgomery, March 23th – 24th.

This year AAHA joined with the newly formed state support organization in Georgia, Habitat Georgia, to offer a joint affiliate conference in Callaway Gardens during the month of February. This allows AAHA to focus our efforts in Montgomery this year on visiting legislators in support of the recent introduction of House Bill 512 (HB512) by Representative Patricia Todd. HB 512 calls for the establishment of an affordable housing trust fund for Alabama to produce and maintain rental and homeownership options for low-and-moderate income residents.

Affiliate representatives will be provided with a training on advocacy related to HB512 including the status of the bill and talking points on Tuesday afternoon prior to our Legislative Reception. Appointments will be made throughout the day on Tuesday and Wednesday according to the schedule of Legislators. Transportation to and from the State House will be on-going throughout Tuesday and Wednesday for Affiliate representatives planning to meet with legislators.

This year AAHA will underwrite the cost of two persons from each affiliate by providing a travel allowance (up to \$150 per affiliate) and a hotel room at Embassy Suites.

Registration Deadlines

Pre-registration for the AAHA Legislative Days is required; please return your registration forms by March 15, 2010.

AAHA will reserve Hotel Reservations for two persons from each affiliate at Embassy Suites In Montgomery.

Registration Deadline is March 15

agenda

Tuesday, March 23th

- 12:00 - 5:00 pm Open for Legislative Visits
- 12:00 - 3:00 pm Registration & Hotel Check-in at Embassy Suites
- 3:00 - 5:00 pm Preparing for your Legislative Visit
Representative Patricia Todd, *Sponsor for HB 512 to establish Housing Trust Fund*
Ron Gilbert, *Alabama Arise*
Ron Anders, *Alabama Association of Habitat Affiliates*
- 5:00 - 6:30 pm Legislative Reception, *RSA Plaza, 770 Washington Ave, Montgomery, AL*

Wednesday, March 24th

- 8:00 - 11:00 am Open for Legislative Visits
- 7:30 - 9:30 am AAHA Annual All Affiliate Meeting (*Breakfast served*)
- 11:30 - 1:30 pm AAHA Annual Award Luncheon
- 2:00 - 4:00 pm Open for Legislative Visits

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

A very special thank you goes out to the underwriters of this year's Annual Conference;

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Caring Foundation
Alabama Housing Finance Authority

Please Join Us!

We welcome Executive Directors, Staff, Boards of Directors, committee members, VISTAs and key volunteers to attend the AAHA Legislative Days!

Legislative Days Pre-Work

Take the Habitat Learns eLearning course “Advocacy: A Core Component of Our Mission” to prepare you for the workshops you will attend. This short course will explain why advocacy is an important part of Habitat for Humanity’s mission to eliminate poverty housing. The course provides real-life examples of advocacy along with tools and resources that you can use in your advocacy activities.

1. Go to habitatlearns.org and click the Courses link in the left column.
2. Locate the Advocacy course by scrolling to “HL _ADV01 Advocacy: A Core Component of Our Mission” or using the Search feature; and then select the check box to the right of the course title.
3. Scroll to the top or bottom to click the Enroll Now and then click Confirm when prompted.
4. If you have a login and password, enter it. If you are a first time user, click the Register Now link and follow the instructions provided. REGISTRATION APPROVALS ARE PROCESSED BY A HABITAT LEARNS ADMINISTRATOR AND ARE NOT AUTOMATIC. If you need assistance, please email habitatlearns@habitat.org. More details are provided in the attached document titled “Habitat Learns Instructions”.

To prepare for visit:

In addition to providing an opportunity to engage members of the State House in support of Habitat’s legislative agenda, the AAHA Legislative Days provide an opportunity for affiliates to showcase the work that they are doing in their communities. Please prepare a 1-page (or both sides of a single page) overview of your affiliate and bring at least 10 copies to leave behind following your legislative meetings.

The following are a few elements that have proved compelling.

- **Brief history of affiliate** – when founded, how many families served, neighborhoods/communities served, etc.
- **Brief description** of the Habitat model, as it is carried out at your affiliate (make sure to highlight that Habitat is not a giveaway program)
- **Current work and future goals** – where are you building now, where will you be building in the next few years, what are your goals for impacting your community
- **Funding sources** – be sure to include any funding from federal sources (CDBG, HOME, SHOP, Section 4 Capacity Building, USDA, etc.) and describe how that funding leverages private funding (Congress loves to hear how nonprofits multiply relatively small federal investments to create relatively large impacts)
- Photographs of houses built and families served – unfortunately, some members of Congress still have a view that Habitat homes are substandard and damage neighborhood property values
- **Volunteers mobilized** – be certain to talk about how many volunteers you have and how dedicated they are to your work – volunteers are congressional constituents, too!
- **Default rates** – most affiliates have a great story to tell re: maintaining very low default rates throughout the foreclosure crisis; some on the Hill believe that the foreclosure crisis proves that the US does not need more homeownership, but the Habitat experience proves that homeownership works, when approached in the right manner.

Please do not hesitate to contact AAHA’s Staff (Ron Anders, randers@alabamahabitat.org) if you have any questions or require assistance in assembling this document.

"I'm proud to be from Alabama," says Arthur Orr. Born in May 1964 to Blythe and Bud Orr of Danville, Alabama, Arthur grew up next to the Alabama Sheriff's Boys Ranch.

"One thing I learned growing up was the value of hard work... though I may not have appreciated it much at the time, I certainly do now." Whether working on the Boys Ranch, hauling 55-gallon barrels for his family's business or loading sand at the Norfolk-Southern Railroad yard in the early morning before high school, hard work was an important part of his early years.

"I've always been a 'doer'... even early in life." While attending college at Wake Forest University, Arthur served as chairman of the Honor Council and set a new fund-raising record as chairman of the Brian Piccolo Cancer Fund Drive. He received several academic honors and held numerous leadership posts while in college.

"After college, I was eager to come back home to Alabama. The law was an area of great interest to me after serving as chairman of the college Honor Council." He attended law school at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa where he was elected as chief justice of the Honor Court, senior editor of a law review, and on the Moot Court board. While also earning academic honors in school, Arthur taught freshman English to undergraduates and regularly volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Community Soup Bowl.

"The plight of those in need has always concerned me. My faith mandates action to address the needs of others." While his classmates pursued legal careers after graduation, Arthur joined the Peace Corps. He was assigned to the remote Himalayan village of Khandbari, Nepal; several days walk from the nearest road. He lived primitively with no indoor plumbing and dirt floors, teaching in the village school and conducting teacher trainings. "I soon noticed the plight of young village girls who were married off at early ages and unable to continue to their educations. They would be relegated to a lifetime of despair with little hope for a better existence." With the financial help of friends and family in the U.S., Arthur used his legal and language training while in Nepal to establish a college scholarship program to benefit female village students. To date, over 50 village students have benefited by attending college and seeking the opportunities an education provides.

After completing his Peace Corps commitment, he returned to Decatur where he joined the law firm of Harris, Caddell and Shanks, P.C. He also served as president of the Decatur Jaycees, the Volunteer Center and Main Street Decatur and was an active board member with other organizations and his church. He also was involved with the formation and completion of a successful real estate development project. Arthur was selected as the Citizen of the Year by the Decatur Rotary Club and received other leadership awards from various organizations. He was honored as a "Community Hero" to carry the 1996 Olympic Torch in Morgan County.

Key Note Speaker AAHA Awards Luncheon

Arthur Orr
Alabama State Senator, District 3

"Though I was a partner in a respected law firm and active in the community, I felt led to return overseas to do what I could to help the poor in the developing world." Hired by Habitat for Humanity International for a three-year period, he was assigned to establish a new Habitat program in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh program was built from scratch and, to-date, has constructed over 350 houses in partnership with the working poor residents of that country. Arthur also served as legal counsel throughout the Asia/Pacific region, traveling to numerous countries and negotiating with government officials, aid organizations and local citizens to further advance Habitat programs across southeast Asia.

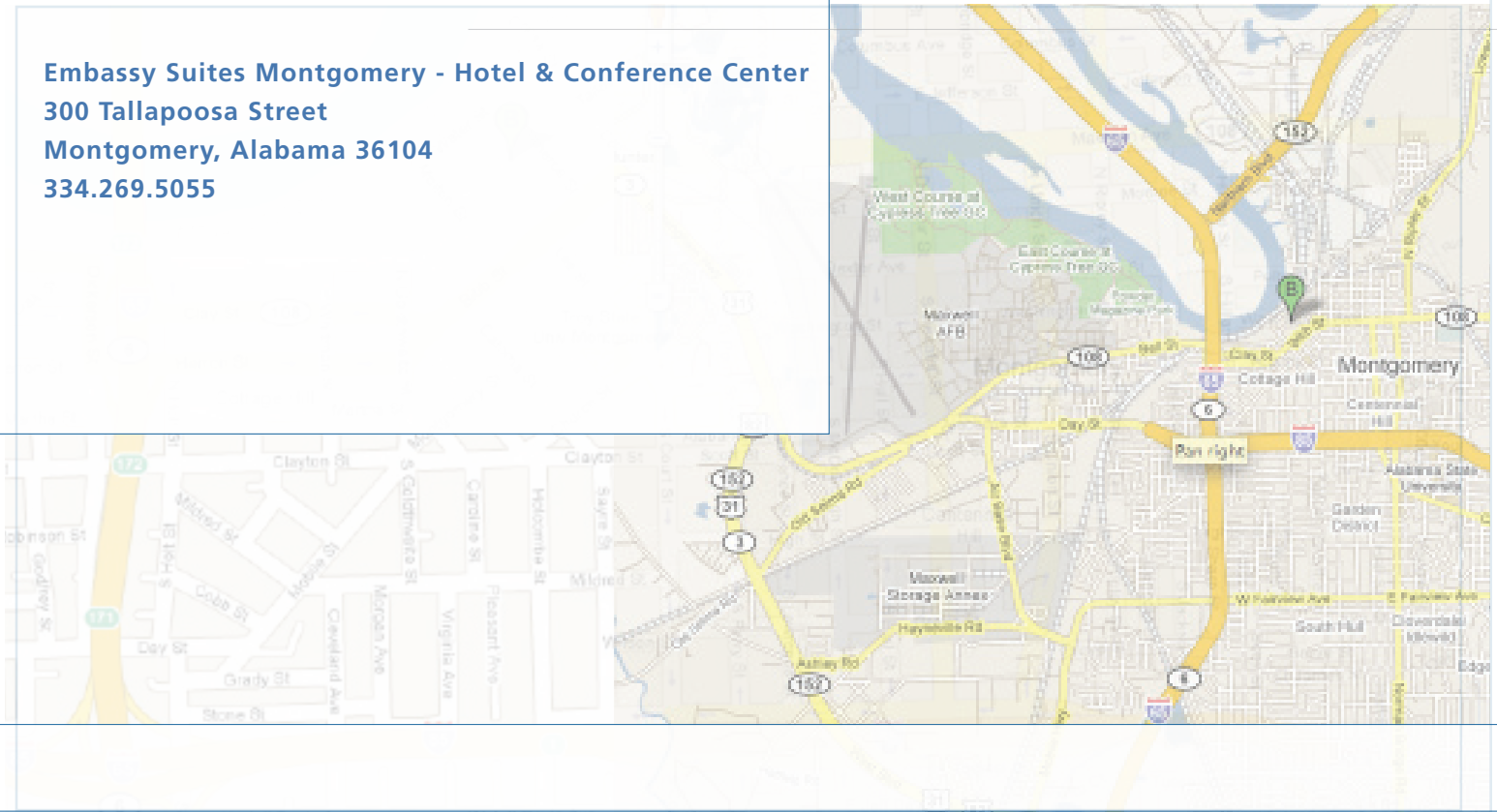
After serving beyond his initial term with Habitat, he returned to Decatur where he joined Cook's Pest Control, Inc. as its general counsel. "Working with Cook's Pest Control has provided me the opportunity to be more involved in the ongoing growth and management of a business — which I enjoy." Since his return in 2001, Arthur also has become part-owner of several local businesses, primarily involved in real estate development and management. Arthur has also re-engaged as an active community leader as president of the Calhoun College Foundation, Community Foundation of Decatur and the Decatur Rotary Club. He helped start the Community Free Clinic and has served on several other boards, including the Chamber of Commerce, the Mental Health Center and the Hartselle Development Board. A long-time adult Sunday school teacher and men's Bible study member, Arthur and his family are members of First Bible Church in Decatur.

Since his election in 2006, Arthur has become involved with water issues affecting the Tennessee Valley. Recognizing the importance of water in the region, he serves on the TVA Water Advisory Board, the State Water Commission and the Joint Legislative Water Resources Committee. He is also a trustee for the Southern Growth Policies Board. After sponsoring and passing legislation to reduce the dropout rate in Alabama, Arthur was recently appointed chairman of the Select Commission on High School Dropouts by Governor Riley.

Arthur and his wife of over ten years, the former Amy Beth-shares of Decatur, have one son named Jack who attends a local public school. Amy serves on various local boards along with being involved with several women's Bible study groups.

location

Embassy Suites Montgomery - Hotel & Conference Center
300 Tallapoosa Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
334.269.5055



AAHA Conference Registration Form

Participant Information

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Preferred Name on Badge _____

Name of HFH Affiliate _____

Your Position / Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address (required) _____

- Prefer AAHA to schedule my Legislative Visits
- Prefer to schedule my own Legislative Visits

Meals

Please indicate which meal(s) you plan to attend (please check all that apply):

- Legislative Reception, Tues. March 23th, 5:30 – 7:00pm
- Breakfast, AAHA All Affiliate Meeting, Wed. March 24th, 7:30 – 9:00am
- AAHA Annual Awards Luncheon, Wed. March 24th, 11:30am – 1:30pm

Please indicate if you have special dietary needs:

- I require vegetarian needs
If you have other special needs or dietary requirements, please contact AAHA.

Fees

Registration Fees (please choose one):

- \$50 per affiliate representative
- AmeriCorps*VISTA - FREE Registration

AAHA Annual Awards Luncheon (please choose one):

- \$50 per individual
- \$1,000 Table Sponsorship**
(includes Registration and Dinner Fees for up to 10 persons)

Table Sponsor Name: _____

Hotel

AAHA will underwrite the Hotel costs for two representatives from each HFH Affiliate.

Please indicate your choice of room & nights:

- Single
- Double
- Triple
- March 23th
- March 24th

Please indicate person(s) you wish to share a room with:

Scheduling Your Legislative Days Visit

Legislative Visit Arrangements:

Affiliate representatives may either schedule their own appointments at the state House, or indicate on your registration form if you would prefer that AAHA schedule your appointments. If AAHA schedules your appointments, they will be scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, or Wednesday morning or afternoon, depending on your legislator's schedule.

If you require assistance or accessibility accommodations please contact Ron Anders at randers@alabamahabitat.org

Conference Attire

For the Legislative visits and reception, we recommend business attire (with comfortable shoes for walking). Your Legislative visits will include walking outside between buildings, so please consider wearing shoes suitable for rainy or snowy weather. Umbrellas are permitted.

Cancellation Policy

Please note, in case of cancellation, transfer of registrations can be made to another individual. We are sorry, but we cannot accommodate transfer requests after the registration deadline of March 15, 2010.

For more information, please contact Karen McCauley kmccauley@alabamahabitat.org or Ron Anders randers@alabamahabitat.org, (334) 501-8441.

Registrations & payments must be received by March 15th, 2010

**** \$10 Late Fee for Registrations Received after March 15th****

Please complete and mail this form with your registration fee to:

AAHA Legislative Days
Alabama Association of Habitat Affiliates
P.O. Box 1488
Auburn, Alabama 36831-1488