



Chair's Report: July-August 2008

A note on progress; farewell to a friend

**Barry Romano of Albany Housing Authority of Albany, New York
2008 – 2009 Chair HAI Group's Board of Directors**

As I write this, it is about 10 days short of the midpoint of my 2008 term as your Chairman. The June Board and Committee Meetings and the annual HADA meeting took place in Milwaukee last week. Based on feedback and my sense of things, I am comfortable saying everything went extremely well. I want to express thanks to Steve Falek and the Milwaukee Housing Authority for their hospitality and loyal membership.

The business strategy we re-worked at the Board retreat in May is being structured to ensure progress and evolution through ongoing and systematic review and consideration. It is critical we consistently re-visit where we are, where we want to be, and how we intend to get there. Goals, timelines, results, market conditions, and member needs must be subjected to an institutionalized process that assures they are up-to-date. We will make every effort to remain ahead of the curve in this ever-changing environment.

We made logistical changes to the traditional meeting structure in order to facilitate greater participation in the Underwriting, Finance, and Marketing/Agency Operations Committee meetings. The Governance and Audit Committee meetings continue to be held on a standalone basis. These factors, and the excellent member participation we enjoy, combine to create a high level of attendance at the meetings and a healthy, animated exchange of ideas. I am grateful to the Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the preparation and leadership they bring to the table.

On a tragic note, since our last InSite was published, the HAI Group family and the entire Public Housing industry lost a powerful advocate and dear friend with the passing of C. R. "Bob" Neill. He embodied the values of faith and family and his contribution to the people we serve stands as a model for anyone who aspires to leave us better for their presence.

In closing, Bob reminded us that gentle man is two words as well as one.