

NUSA NEWS

A Publication of Neighborhoods, USA

Fall/Winter 2008



Aerial view of the Spokane Convention Center, site of the 2009 Neighborhoods, USA Conference coming May 20-23, 2009.

Early Reservations Urged for '09 NUSA Conference

Make your plans now to learn and play in Spokane. You won't want to miss any opportunity to enjoy Spokane's neighborhoods as they burst into bloom to welcome you next spring. From lavish receptions, to tours of Spokane's historic neighborhoods, to whitewater rafting and wine tasting, there will be something for everyone.

"Our conference preparations are in high gear," says Jonathan Mallahan, the City of Spokane's Neighborhood Services Director. "Our theme is 'Our Place is Your Place,' and our focus is to load you up with real examples and information that you can use to improve your community."

Center of all the activity will be Spokane's Convention Center, located downtown on the bank of the Spokane River, steps from shopping and fresh local cuisine. The Convention Center is just a short stroll across the park from the host hotel, Red Lion Inn at the Park.

Hotel information is on page 3. For additional information on the conference, contact: Katrina Miller, Conference Coordinator, at 509-625-6733.



NUSA representatives Judy Martinson and Elton Gatewood (far right) share dinner and conversation with attendees at the Japan Association for Community Policy conference, held last month at the Kwansai Gakuin University in Nishinomiya, Japan.

NUSA Strengthens Ties with Japan's Association of Community Policy

Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) newly elected President Elton Gatewood, and Vice President Judy Martinson recently returned from a conference entitled "The Global Governance of the 21st Century - A Joint Research by Japan - US Citizens" in Japan.

At the request of the Japan Association of Community Policy (JACP), Elton Gatewood, Ph.D. was keynote speaker at the symposium. He also participated in discus-

sing the potential of a NUSA-JACP relationship.

Judy Martinson presented information on new and innovative programs and approaches based on lessons learned at NUSA conferences. She shared information about the Phoenix Project being undertaken in her hometown, Dayton, Ohio and was also a panel member along with Rikako Nakanishi, Senior Director at Kobe City. Each of the panel members spoke briefly about citizen engagement in their communities and then addressed questions from the audience. Commentators included Akinori Kato, Ph.D. at the School of Policy Studies, Gakuin University and Yoshitake Tanaka, Trustee of Japan Association for Community Policy.

The conference was held at Kwansai Gakuin University in Nishinomiya, Japan. Over 100 educators, professional, and government representatives from various cities in Japan attended this inspirational and rewarding symposium. JACP expressed their interest in establishing a joint relationship with NUSA, and was very excited about learning how effectiveness of citizen participation can benefit emerging democracies.

An application for Affiliate Membership with NUSA has been sent to JACP for their consideration. Once received, it will be considered along with other applicants. NUSA's Board of Directors felt this would be an excellent opportunity for NUSA to spread the word not only nationally, but internationally.

Plans are currently underway for several members of JACP to attend the NUSA Conference in Spokane, May 20-23, 2009 to observe and learn from our efforts.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from the NUSA
Board of Directors

COMPETITION OPENS FOR NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD AWARDS

The Board of Directors of Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) is pleased to announce the opening of the competition for the 2009 Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) and Best Neighborhood Program Awards. These awards are a way for NUSA to recognize outstanding neighborhood organizations, government entities and businesses from all across the United States for their work in improving the quality of life in their communities.

Neighborhoods, USA, the largest non-profit grassroots organization in the nation, is committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Founded in 1975 to share information and experiences to build stronger communities, NUSA encourages networking as a way to facilitate the development of partnerships between neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector.

Neighborhood of the Year Awards

recognize exceptional accomplishments by neighborhood organizations during 2008.

Judging is based on the extent of innovation, grassroots participation and capacity building exhibited by the nominated organization in 3 categories:

- Physical Revitalization/Beautification in a Single Neighborhood
- Social Revitalization/Neighborliness in a Single Neighborhood
- Multi-Neighborhood - Partnerships.

Best Neighborhood Program Awards

will be presented to recognize outstanding programs implemented in 2008 to improve neighborhoods by a governmental entity or business or corporation.

Best Neighborhood Program Awards will be given in two categories:

- Social Revitalization
- Physical Revitalization.

A distinguished panel of judges will select four finalists in each of the awards categories. Finalists will be invited to make presentations at the annual NUSA conference, to be held May 20-23 in Spokane, WA. First, second and third place winners will be selected in each category and honored at the conference.

In order to be considered for the 2009 Neighborhood of the Year Award or the Best Neighborhood Program Award, applicants must have completed a noteworthy neighborhood improvement project in 2008 and must submit a completed application, with the appropriate fee, postmarked by March 1, 2009. Eligibility requirements, fees and application guidelines can be downloaded from the NUSA website, www.nusa.org.

*For additional information or questions regarding the Award programs, contact:
Awards Committee Chair Robert Gibbons, 1950 E. Washington Ave., #1, Madison, WI 53704-5278,
(608) 244-0582, robert.gibbons1@charter.net*

"NOTABLES" Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

Each year at its annual conference, NUSA recognizes its "Notables," and this year the nomination forms are available on the NUSA website, www.nusa.org.

A Notable is someone in your community who has benefited neighborhoods, but is not a recognized "neighborhood leader." These notable entities might be a business, benefactor or media outlet that has been particularly responsive to neighborhood issues.

Only you will know the "notable" people from your community who deserve NUSA's recognition. Only NUSA members can nominate a Notable and deadline for submitting your nomination is March 1, 2009.

If you have questions regarding the Notables Awards, please contact Robert Gibbons at robert.gibbons1@charter.net or go to the NUSA website.

2009 Conference Reservation Information

All 2009 conference workshops will be held at the Spokane Convention Center, located at 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201. A map on page 7 shows locations of the Convention Center and the Red Lion host hotel(s).

Hotel Information:

Special conference rates at the Red Lion River or Red Lion In the Park are \$119 per night (single or double) + tax

1-800-REDLION

Reservation Code: Neighborhoods USA

(Be sure to tell them you are with "Neighborhoods, USA" to receive this special discounted rate)

Free shuttle service between the Airport and Hotel is provided by Red Lion.

Airport and airline information continues on page 7



NUSA Board Member Elections

It's time to consider if this is your time to become a NUSA Board Member. If you've made that decision, it is important that you become acquainted with the requirements and commitment needed to make sure you are able to comply. Below is a list of those requirements as well as a sample copy of the application form itself.

- Must be a member of NUSA for at least one year.
- Must have attended one previous NUSA conference within the last 3 years.
- Must submit a (2" x 3" or 3" x 5") COLOR photo with nomination form postmarked by February 15, 2009 (see address below)
- Must attend opening breakfast.
- Must attend NUSA Business Meeting Saturday morning.
- Must attend closing luncheon on Saturday.
- All 2008 prospective candidates must attend one of the Running for the NUSA Board Workshops during the annual NUSA Conference unless they attended it in Baton Rouge, LA or Hampton, VA. Future prospective candidates should also take one of the sessions.
- Must be able to attend three (3) meetings:

October	Mandatory for all new and re-elected board members
March	Preferred that you attend all board meetings
May	Mandatory for all members

There will be nine (9) board member vacancies for the three (3) year term of 2009-2012. All candidates for the nine positions will be published in the Spring issue of NUSA Newsletter. Election will be held at the May conference.

Requests for actual nomination form and questions regarding the 2008 elections should be addressed to: Board of Development Committee Chair Estelle H. McCadden, 2128 Mercer Ave. N.W., Roanoke, Va. 24017 . Email: MccaddenMaMac@aol.com. Deadline to submit application is February 15, 2009.

NEIGHBORHOODS, USA
Board of Directors Nominating Form

Member's Name: _____

Nominant's Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Organization/Agency/Ministry/Office: _____

Work Phone Number: _____ Home Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Home and Room Number: _____

Check one (1) category that best describes nominant's category of representation for the NUSA Board.

Business or Institution City or County Employee

District City or County Official Neighborhood Volunteer

Indicate the previous NUSA conferences attended within the last 3 years: _____

Criteria: A nominant must be able to answer **YES** to the following questions in order to be eligible for nomination:

	YES	NO
Is the nominant a current member of NUSA?	—	—
Does the nominant agree to attend every (2) Board meetings per year (the annual Conference Board meeting at the annual conference and the fall Board meeting, usually held in the conference city for the following year) at their own expense?	—	—
Does the nominant agree to participate on the NUSA Board Committees?	—	—
Will the nominant be present during the opening breakfast?	—	—
Will the nominant be present during the annual membership meeting during the conference?	—	—
Will the nominant be present during the closing luncheon?	—	—

NUSA is moving ahead and growing quite rapidly, which places an additional burden on the Board of Directors. The applicant's ability to attend all three board meetings each year would be a plus and your obligation as a board member.

Neighborhoods, USA Board of Directors Nominating Form- Page 2

Complete the section following that applies to you.

Affiliation and Experience:
Community Volunteer: Indicate your organization (or organizations) and your position in the organization.

SAMPLE

Professional/Community Support Staff: Indicate your title and provide a brief job description. Also describe any other related professional experiences.

Why the nominant will be an asset to the NUSA Board of Directors: _____

IMPORTANT

- Nominants must attend the Opening Breakfast.
- Nominants must attend the NUSA Business Meeting on Saturday.
- Nominants must attend the luncheon on Saturday.
- Each nominant must submit a colored 2" x 3" or 2" x 5" photo with this form.
- Return form, post marked no later than February 15, 2009 to: Board Development Committee Chair Estelle McCadden, 2128 Mercer Ave., N.W., Roanoke, VA 24017.