

New Advisory Board Members Appointed for NDHFA

BISMARCK – The North Dakota Industrial Commission recently appointed four new Advisory Board members for the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA). They are: Will Laintz, Bismarck; Michael Orness, Devils Lake; Laurie Parisien, Hazen; and Becky Knight, New Town.

The six-member board consists of representatives of lenders, the residential real estate industry, the manufactured housing industry, and homeowners and buyers. The NDHFA Advisory Board provides recommendations to the Industrial Commission regarding the conduct of Housing Finance Agency programs.

Will Laintz represents homeowners and buyers and is a Housing Development Specialist for Affordable Housing Developers, Inc., in Bismarck. He is a director of the Bismarck Optimists, a member of the ND Home Buyer Education Committee, the ND Committee on Community Strategic Planning, and the Finance Council of the Spirit of Life Church. His term on the NDHFA Advisory Board expires July 2003.

Michael Orness represents the manufactured housing industry. He is currently the general manager of operations for Greater Dakota Homes in Devils Lake and its four sales centers. He has been a member of the board of directors of the ND Manufactured Housing Association (NDMHA) for three years and was recently elected chairman of the NDMHA promotional committee. His term expires July 2001.

Laurie Parisien represents lenders and banking institutions and is a Mortgage Loan Officer at Union State Bank in Hazen. She has 23 years of banking experience, has been an FHA underwriter for 10 years, and graduated from the School of Banking in Jamestown. She is secretary/treasurer for the Hazen Retail Trades, is a member of the Hazen Housing Enhancement Committee, and has been a coordinator and speaker at homebuyer education seminars in Hazen and New Town. Her term expires July 2001.

Becky Knight represents homeowners and buyers and is the Alternative Housing Finance Officer for the Fort Berthold Housing Authority in New Town. She has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Psychology from the University of New Mexico. Knight is a member of the Homebuyer Counseling Team of the One-Stop Mortgage Center Initiative created by President Clinton and HUD. She is also a member of the North Dakota Homebuyer Education Task Force, and provides homebuyer education workshops to the public every two months. Her term expires July 2002.

The four new board members join Gerald Eid and Jan Gubrud, who were re-appointed by the Industrial Commission. Eid is president of Eid-Co Buildings, Inc., in Fargo. He represents residential real estate construction and was appointed chairman of the NDHFA Advisory Board. His term expires July 2002. Gubrud is a Realtor with Fredricksen Real Estate in Williston. She represents residential real estate sales and was appointed vice chairman. Her term expires July 2003.

The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota consisting of Gov. Edward T. Schafer, as Chairman, Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp, and Commissioner of Agriculture Roger Johnson.