

NHSCA Monthly Update

Thanks to all who were on the call, February 11, 2016 at 2:30 PM CST.

HBW 2-10: Lindsay Iten

AHS: Mark Celichowski

Fidelity: Billy Jenson

First American: Jeff Powell

HMS National/Cross Country: John Walsh

HSA: Mark Celichowski

ORHP: Lorna Mello

HWA/Direct Energy: Meghan Boyle

A quorum was present.

NHSCA: Art Chartrand

THSCA, David Parker, Local Lobbyist

Brief Highlights:

Chartrand reminded members that the monthly calls are *normally set for the first Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm* to create expectations, but must be occasionally reset (as today) to accommodate state hearing calendars or other conflicts.

1. Sewer and Water Line Direct Contacts: Stein & Bartosch

No report was provided as Stein and Bartosch were not present. A report was deferred to the next call.

2. VA HB 304

Chartrand sent a summary email dated February 5 of the results of tough negotiations with the VA BOI and lobbying of the legislature this past week. A significant achievement was obtained to eliminate the March 1 filing, and only require a GAAP audited statement annually on June 1. However, members should plan to file a prelim GAAP, unaudited statement this March 1 unless we can yet obtain an emergency adoption. Chartrand also encouraged members to carefully review how they calculate their *required* reserves and call if they have any questions. We would be remiss not to mention this successful effort has conservatively saved many members more than \$25,000 annually in direct costs. We also opened the door to discussion with the BOI to totally remove the law from BOI authority.

3. Oregon CCB Renewal

Many members are confused about the biennial renewal application and process. Chartrand worked through our local lobbyist Greg Chaimov and CCB's Laurie Hall. A summary instruction page was developed and sent to all members by date of February 5. Note that online registration is not available to home service contract providers at this time.

4. Sales & Tax Updates

WA: The WA DOR issued a missive ETA dated January 12 that has caused perhaps even more confusion but can be interpreted to our favor. Truth always stranger than fiction, principal DOR staff behind the ETA have reportedly since left the DOR already. Chartrand had a limited industry release dated February 1 issued making the DOR aware of our reasonable interpretation and provided a copy to all members. Chartrand will be meeting with the DOR on February 24 to solidify our position

TX: David Parker reported on efforts with the Comptrollers office, including new efforts with Chief of Staff Lisa Craven and personal efforts of their firm with the Comptroller directly to get the opinion issued as we were told to expect. We will keep members advised.

FL: Offset legislation

A summary was email to all members direct from FHSCA lobbyist David Roberts on the status. Work concentrates on the Senate side as tax package amendments are sorted through. The governor and both houses have had contentious dealing over the entire tax package. Confidence remains 50-50 at best. Members with any influence in Tallahassee were urged to contact Chartrand immediately.

NV: Some members were being contacted or being provided statutory notices of action regarding construction defect legislation on homes. It appears these are being misdirected by at least one law firm that appears to misunderstand the impact of AB 125 adopted in 2015. There appears no action to take but ask the sending firms to cite the statutory provision they are following and why.

NC: The NC DOR issued a tax notice. Chartrand sent a summary via email to all members by date of February 11. The notice appears to say nothing new.

5. NHSCA Accreditation.

Chartrand indicated ORHP and National Home Guaranteed have volunteered to be beta test companies. One other mid sized company might be added to the beta test for better feedback by June 1. If another member is interested in being part of the beta test, please so advise.

6. National Meeting June 9-10, 2016, Marblehead, MA

Please make your reservations now. NHSCA is on the hook for all 20 rooms at this very unique venue. Plan to bring family and stay the weekend. NHSCA will sponsor a fun outing as per tradition after the meeting on Friday.

Chartrand noted that he has been made aware of a few bills hitting our radar that may affect us. He urged all members to alert him to any legislative activity that we may need to check out.

Members noted no other matters.

The call adjourned at 2:55 pm

The next FIRST Thursday of the month call will be March 3 at 2:30 PM CST.