



FALL NEWSLETTER

October 2026



NWIHA
NORTHWEST INDIAN
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

ABOUT US

VOTING MEMBERS

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Please click on the red button below to view or download NWIHA's Fall Housing Update, including details and links to source documents on NAHASDA Modernization and Reauthorization, member housing projects, infrastructure and federal funding opportunities, and other member resources that you will not find in the Newsletter.

[Download NWIHA's Fall Housing Update HERE](#)

Fall Conference

Our Fall Conference was held September 15-17 at the Ko-Kwel Casino Resort and was hosted by [The Coquille Indian Tribe](#).

We had **78 registrants** from our Northwest Tribes and Associate Members.

Thank you to the Ko-Kwel Casino Resort Team for providing us with great support and a wonderful facility. And thanks to all who came out and participated!



Thank You to the Coquille Indian Tribe

We would like to express gratitude and offer a special thank you to the **Coquille Indian Tribe** and the **Coquille Indian Housing Authority**. With a gracious introduction to our Fall Conference, **Coquille Indian Housing Authority Board Vice-Chair Denise Hunter** gave the group a welcome and detailed some of the background of the Coquille Tribe's history. We learned a lot from her and appreciated her time and knowledge!



Additionally, the Tribe and Anne Cook, Executive Director of the Coquille Indian Housing Authority, prepared and hosted a lunch event, a talk by Executive Director of Oregon Housing and Community Services Andrea Bell, and a tour of some of Coquille's local projects for conference attendees.

This was an enormous effort to put together and we truly appreciate all the time and contributions of the Tribe and the Housing Authority!

Fall Conference Presentations



Thank You to All Our Fall Conference Presenters!

For those who were unable to attend or for those who would like to revisit any of the presentations or training, we have made both videos for presentations and slide decks available on our website in the password-protected Members Portal, where NWIHA Members may view or download, for the following (please contact your Executive Director/Director if you need help remembering the password):

- Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker;
- Oregon Housing & Community Services;
- The LUAK Group; and
- HUD/NwONAP.

Also included are a copy of our Conference Handbook, a video of and slide deck from our Fall Conference Business Meeting.

NWIHA Members Portal for Fall Conference 2026 Materials

NWIHA's 2026 Strategic Planning Training Series



NWIHA concluded its year-long, three-part Strategic Planning training series at the Fall Conference. We thank trainer **Rodney Clements** for his thoughtful planning and excellent delivery, and everyone who participated in the three sessions throughout the year. The tools, examples and discussions across the modules provide a practical foundation for members to apply what they learned to planning and decision-making within their own Tribal housing programs. All training materials are now available through the Members Portal on our website for continued reference and use.

NWIHA Members Portal for Winter Conference 2026 Materials

NWIHA Executive Committee and Liaison Elections

In accordance with NWIHA's bylaws, this year's Fall Conference included elections for Executive Committee Officers and Liaisons for the 2026–2028 term.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the election and to those who stepped forward to serve our membership. Please join us in welcoming the following Officers and Liaisons:



Chair: **Anne Cook**, Coquille
Vice-Chair: **Wendy Lawrence**, Makah
Secretary: **Diana Phair**, Lummi
Treasurer: **Joan Dugger**, Grand Ronde

NAIHC: **Wendy Lawrence**, Makah
ATNI: **Shonn Leno**, Grand Ronde
AMERIND: **Douglas Marconi**, Nez Perce

Congratulations to the 2026-2028 NWIHA Leadership and Liaisons

NWIHA LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

At our Fall Conference Banquet, we honored our outgoing Chair, Sami Jo Difuntorum, Shasta Indian Nation Member and Executive Director of Siletz Tribal Housing.

We honor Sami Jo for a lifetime of service and for her irreplaceable leadership, guidance, and lasting impact on Tribal housing not just in the Northwest region, but across the country and at the highest levels of decision-making and policy-setting.

We wish Sami Jo well and hope she finally has more time for grandchildren, family, and travel.

We are losing one of the great ones, but hope we can honor her legacy and continue the good work.

Thank you, Sami Jo!



Special Recognition to Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP:

Recipients of NWIHA's 2026 Annual Award

At our Fall Conference Banquet we also honored Ed Goodman, Cari Baermann, Caleb Norris, Vanessa Jackson and all of the team at Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker for their continued exemplary leadership in and advocacy for tribal housing. We feel privileged to collaborate with you and respect the work you conduct on behalf of Tribal housing professionals and the communities they serve.

**Special Thanks
to Associate Member:**



Tribal First graciously co-sponsored lunch for those attending our training on September 16. We would like to thank **Eric Ramos and Tribal First** for their Associate Membership and continued collaboration in service of our Members' needs.

Associate Members



NWIHA asks that you please consider all our Associate Members when you need any of the services or products they provide. To find out more information regarding any of our Associate Members, just click on their logo below.





Worldwide Structures LLC



Upcoming Meeting

WINTER CONFERENCE

JANUARY 12-14, 2027



HOSTED BY



**The Confederated Tribes
of the Chehalis Reservation**

Northwest Indian Housing Association | nwiha.org

Northwest Indian Housing Association | PO Box 7653 | Olympia, WA 98507-7653 US

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