

## **Legislative Platform Meeting Recap:**

**Committees Overview:** The group reviewed and registered for committees:

Please email Courtney Barnard to join a committee [Courtney@faahq.org](mailto:Courtney@faahq.org).

**Legislative Committee:** Meets 3 times annually and holds twice-monthly calls during legislative session to discuss platform issues, APAC goals. Members are expected to attend Legislative Conference in Tallahassee and are strongly encouraged to invest in APAC.

**Government Affairs Council (GAC):** Meets three times annually and holds weekly calls during legislative session. Per the by-laws this group will serve as the government affairs arm of the association for the purpose of communication both internally and externally regarding legislative and political issues important to the association and the multi-housing industry in the state of Florida. Members are expected to attend Legislative Conference in Tallahassee and are strongly encouraged to invest in APAC.

**APAC Committee:** Meets at a minimum bi-annually and will host quarterly calls to pursue APAC fundraising. Per the by-laws this committee will work to raise funds to support the election of state legislators friendly to the multi-housing industry. All Executive Committee members are required to be directors of APAC. Members are expected to attend Legislative Conference in Tallahassee and are strongly encouraged to invest in APAC.

**Key Contacts:** The group also discussed expanding the Legislative Committee in 2015 to introduce the 'Florida Key Contact Program'. This program would enhance our advocacy efforts and would be modeled after the NAA Federal Key Contact program (but would be implemented at the state level). Key contacts are made up of those who are ready to personally contact their state level elected federal officials to advocate FAA's position on important legislative issues.

Key contacts are provided with issue briefs, sample letters, background information and other useful communications tools that can support and strengthen the Key Contacts' advocacy activities. Ideally every Florida Representative and Senator will be paired with an FAA key contact in their district.

**Please email Courtney Barnard to join any committee: [Courtney@faahq.org](mailto:Courtney@faahq.org)**

**APAC:** The group reviewed the new APAC logo, goals, and giving levels.

**Logo:**



**APAC Recognition Levels:**

- \$25 Fair Share Contributor
- \$99 Club
- \$250 Silver Donor
- \$500 Gold Donor
- \$1,000 Emerald Donor
- \$2,500 Ruby Donor
- \$5,000 Sapphire Donor
- \$10,000 Diamond Donor

**APAC Goals:** In order to actively participate in each Florida election cycle (giving to each race in the general and primary) APAC must raised at a minimum \$160,000 annually. To achieve this goal, a fair share amount of \$25 was selected. If all FAA communities gave \$25 to APAC, the annual goal would be achieved. FAA strongly encourages each local affiliate to request a minimum of \$25 from each local apartment community member.

To achieve these goal, locals can requests fund from the FAA Affiliate Assistance Fund to help cover the coast of APAC events. Please email Courtney Barnard [Courtney@faahq.org](mailto:Courtney@faahq.org) for more details.

**Legislative Priorities:** FAA selected three main talking points to present during Legislative conference on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee. In addition, Courtney Barnard, FAA GAD and Kelly Mallettee, FAA Lobbyist will continue to monitor all issues affecting our industry.

**1. Continued Funding of the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund:**

Document stamp taxes paid on all real estate transactions provide funding to the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund. 30% of monies to the State Housing Trust Fund for Florida Housing Finance Corporation fund programs such as the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program. SAIL funds can be used to rehabilitate existing apartments in dire need of repair or to build new units where needed; apartments that house Florida's most vulnerable populations, such as the frail elderly and persons with disabilities.

The appropriation of the estimated \$245.33 million in the state and local housing trust funds in fiscal year 2015-16 into Florida's housing programs will create **24,820 jobs** and **\$2.5 BILLION in positive economic impact in Florida.** For more information please visit: [www.sadowskicoalition.org/facts](http://www.sadowskicoalition.org/facts)

**2. Expanding the Scope of Work Performed by Maintenance Workers Allowed Under Florida State Law (Unlicensed Maintenance):** FAA will pursue greater scope of work allowed under Florida state law to include HVAC, AC, and water heater repair. Currently, maintenance workers are legally unable to perform these duties and the group has decided to pursue legislation to give maintenance workers holding a CAMT certificate the ability to legally perform these duties.

As the details of this legislation are finalized more information will be provided.

**3. Opposing the Creation of Additional Protected Classes:** FAA and its members oppose the creation of any additional protected classes and will continue to monitor any precedent setting legislation or rulings regarding this issue or similar issues such as disparate impact. FAA will also actively engage legislators to communicate the dangers to our industry and residents by creating additional protected classes.

**Future Efforts: Insurance Liability Issues:** FAA will pursue an academic study of insurance liability issues to assess what steps can be taken to create a more affordable insurance market for apartment communities. The results of the study will help FAA prepare for legislative efforts in 2016 and beyond.

**Legislative Conference:** FAA will host its annual Legislative Conference in Tallahassee on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Registration is open online: <http://faahq.org/legislative-conference>

AEs: If you plan on making your own legislator appointments, please email the appointment information to Courtney Barnard at [Courtney@Faahq.org](mailto:Courtney@Faahq.org). All appointments will be posted online.

Talking point brochures will be distributed in Tallahassee; please watch out for upcoming news and legislative info in your inbox.

Please contact Courtney Barnard, [Courtney@faahq.org](mailto:Courtney@faahq.org) with any further questions or call 407-960-2910.

Thank you!