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**PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AHMA and CARH Announce Plans for Their 2012 Joint Convention**

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Bellevue, WA (November 1, 2011). Today, two of the largest affordable housing organizations in Washington State announced plans for a joint convention – their third such collaboration. “While the organizations have their own focus, there is a lot of synergy generated by meeting together,” noted Joe Diehl, who serves as the Executive Director of both organizations. The convention will be held on April 23-25, 2012.

The Board(s) of Directors chose the Coeur d’Alene Resort for this year’s convention. “Our leaders felt that the front line managers and staff are incredibly hard workers, and they deserve a resort setting,” noted Diehl. The prior convention venues selected were Wenatchee (2010) and Tacoma (2011). Two \$10,000 sponsors have stepped up to the line – **Contract Management Services** of Bremerton, WA and the **Insurance Program for Association Housing (IPAH)** of Bellevue, WA have renewed their annual commitments. Other sponsors include the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, Sprague Pest Solutions, Wells Fargo Insurance Services, The Summit Group, Propel Insurance, Yardi Systems, Novogradac & Company, AptFinder.org, ORCA Information, HUDtraining.org LLC, Ad-West Realty Services, Quantum Management Services and Legacy Management Group LLC. Sponsorships are still available. Last year’s convention was one of the largest in the nation.

The theme of this year’s conference is, “Back to Basics – in Affordable Housing Management!” The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual CARH CLASSIC golf tournament will be held on the day before the convention (April 23) at the Coeur d’Alene Resort Golf Course – ranked #4 in the nation by Golf World magazine.

The AHMA and CARH Joint Convention is known for its keynote speakers, experienced trainers - and great entertainment as well. Last year, attendees were wowed by internationally-known motivational speaker Les Brown. This year, 4-time Super Bowl Champion and Vietnam Veteran Rocky Bleier will be the keynote speaker during the awards luncheon. Randy “Red Shoes” Morgan returns to our convention to inspire and enlighten attendees in an opening keynote and in afternoon leadership development sessions. That evening, the huge Coeur d’Alene Resort boats will ferry attendees to an evening with the Beatles... “Well, the Beatles tribute band, ‘Meet Revolver’ sure sound like the Beatles” Diehl noted.

Hands-on Fair Housing training, as well as intensive sessions on HUD, LIHTC and USDA/RD program trainings will take place over the two days. On the second day, Jeffrey Boyd and Rick Graham will also lead the maintenance and inspection training, which has earned high accolades in years past.

Early Bird Registration opens on November 1, 2011. This year, AHMA and CARH have gone green, and are no longer doing the expensive mass mailings. All convention registration forms will be available at [www.ahma-wa.org](http://www.ahma-wa.org) and [www.wa-carh.org](http://www.wa-carh.org).

All prospective attendees are asked to fill out and fax back the sleeping room pre-reservation form (available for downloading, on-line). “Not everyone will get rooms at the resort, due to the size of the convention,” Diehl noted. Attendees will be assigned room assignments once the pre-reservation period **ends on December 1<sup>st</sup>**.

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