

RAP Statewide Call

August 1, 2018

On the Call: Mallory Van Abbema (Seattle), Lisa Striedinger (Centralia/Chehalis), Nicholas Arndt (Seattle), Earl Hall (Everett), Samatha Anderson (South King County), Teresa Clark (Seattle), Lisa Sawyer (Seattle), Nettie Recluso (Centralia), James Lovelady (Centralia), Kelly Penfold (Yakima), Ren Autrey (Vancouver), Jennifer Wilcox (Spokane Valley), Nick Wood (Seattle), Divya Shiv (Seattle),

Local Updates

Nicholas and Lisa shared their experiences testifying at Monday's public hearing on the King County lodging tax, where around 80 people provided testimony. Nicholas mentioned that one council-member flipped her vote right after the public hearing and is now in favor of using the money that would have gone to maintenance of Safeco Field for affordable housing instead. There are a few more public hearings happening in Seattle, and both Lisa and Nicholas encourage anyone in the King County area to attend.

Ren Autrey discussed the need for community voices in Vancouver, as the city of Vancouver is seeking input for their community development 5-year plan.

Kelly Penfold shared that she and other community members are trying to fight against a ban in Yakima that would prevent people from living in mobile homes.

Trainings

We first listed the past four trainings RAP has had ("RAP Messages that Work," "Successful Strategies for Lawmaker Meetings," "RAP Listening Session," and "Building RAP Community Groups") and discussed two upcoming trainings: a **"Telling Your Personal Story"** workshop this Friday from noon to 1pm, led by Reiny Cohen, and an **"Electoral Engagement"** training next Friday, Aug. 10, from noon to 1pm, led by Teresa Clark.

Teresa discussed the Electoral Engagement training in more depth, letting RAP members know that this training will teach RAP members how to change who our elected officials are, get more people voting for housing champions, and ultimately change the legislative environment so our policy advocacy can have even more of an impact.

We also asked RAP members for ideas on future RAP trainings. People were interested in:

- "How to Testify" training

- A training where Michele Thomas discusses what's in the pipeline for the next legislative session. This will most likely happen once the Housing Alliance creates its Legislative Agenda, based in responses from people around the state (including RAP members!).
- A messaging training specifically around outreach and recruitment to get more people interested in RAP. This training received two votes.

Question: Lisa Sawyer asked if past RAP trainings could be found online.

Answer: yes, they can be found on [the RAP website here](#).

Working Group Concept

We discussed starting working groups made up of RAP members and a staff member to help with specific projects for a set period of time. The two working groups we discussed were an electoral engagement working group that Teresa would coordinate, and a working group to plan the statewide summit.

The Electoral Engagement working group is a space for any folks interested in learning how to use the following tactics to create change: voter registration, ballot parties, voter education work, engaging organizations in electoral processes. All are encouraged to be a part of the team, and there is room for people to work with Teresa to figure out how the Electoral Engagement working group and program will look like, based on what's going to be the most impactful in each person's community. The Electoral Engagement working group will plan voter engagement activities on a local, statewide, and federal level to advance affordable housing and to end homelessness.

- Volunteers: Lisa Striedinger, Mallory Van Abbema, Earl Hall

Statewide Summit working group is an opportunity for RAP folks to help plan the statewide summit, likely happening on September 22 in the Yakima area. This would involve: planning an agenda, deciding on facilitation/event roles, bringing local people from your community as a delegation, coming up with themes, and promotional outreach. As the event is happening in Yakima, it would be helpful to have a strong Yakima contingent on the working group. People will also be able to use the skills gained from this working group in the future, as they plan their own events.

- Volunteers: Lisa Sawyer, Kelly Penfold, Ren Autrey, Earl Hall

If you are interested in volunteering for either of these working groups, please email nickw@wliha.org.

In-District Lawmaker Meetings

Housing Alliance staff are currently coming up with a toolkit for these meetings. Lisa Striedinger, Lisa Sawyer, and Kelly Penfold are interested in setting up lawmaker meetings during the interim period, and Nick asked them (and others interested) to email him at nickw@wliha.org.