

Welcome to 2013, a new year, a new beginning and new challenges for AACSC and our industry.

As you are all probably aware, our Executive Director, Nancy Ahlswede, who has been with us for the past 28 years, has retired per her doctor's recommendation. We all will miss her knowledge, wisdom and expertise that has led this Association and helped to make us an industry leader. A retirement celebration will be held in conjunction with our upcoming Legislative Reception early this spring.

Your Board of Directors has undertaken a search for a new Executive Director. Change is coming, but our dedicated staff is still on the job and here to serve your needs.

2013 is going to be a challenge for our industry. Not only will our Association be going through change, but also legislative and regulatory changes are in the works, which will affect all of us in how we conduct our business. To help keep new State legislation from being onerous to our industry, we maintain our very capable lobbyist in Sacramento, working to protect your rights. In concert with our partner associations, we will do everything within our power to protect your business. Nationally, as a member affiliate of the National Apartment Association, we are working to protect you in the Federal arena. Locally, your Government Affairs Committee is diligently following issues within the County and the various Cities we serve. We meet with elected officials to discuss issues. We are also often called upon by those same elected officials to take part in the crafting of new local policies that can affect our industry.

Along with this, your association will continue providing you with top quality service. We offer training and education opportunities, seminars and monthly member ship meetings with guest speakers on timely topics. As members of the National Apartment Association, you will have the opportunity to attend the NAA National Education Conference and Exposition at the San Diego Convention Center, June 19–22. Our association's Annual Trade Show and Seminars will again be held at the Long Beach Convention Center on September 12. We offer tenant screening, rental documents, signs, books, counseling and other important services. This magazine is one of the most important member benefits, helping to keep you informed and educated. We offer many other benefits, from credit union membership to worker's compensation insurance plans.

It is my pleasure to be the new President of your association. Your Board of Directors,

## **Apartment Association, California Southern Cities, Inc. - A Time of Change**

Written by Clive Graham

Thursday, 07 February 2013 00:00 - Last Updated Thursday, 07 February 2013 15:09

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Committee volunteers, our staff and I are here to serve you. I hope to meet many of you at our various events this year. Let's all work together to have a great 2013.