

Rose McKinney-James

Managing Principal
Energy Works Consulting LLC

Today, the phrase “going green” is as trite as it is important. With the media pushing environmentalism to the forefront in recent years, there’s no shortage of business owners and others trying to tag their enterprises as “green,” even if these claims may not always seem genuine.

But then there are those like Rose McKinney-James, managing principal of Energy Works Consulting, who has a long record of pushing for a better renewable energy policy. Her enthusiasm for developing a strong solar industry in the Silver State shines through her careful rhetoric.

After recently completing a stint on President Obama’s transition team as a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) review team, McKinney-James will continue to be a force in Nevada when it comes to making renewable energy, particularly solar, a major part of our economy.

McKinney-James has served as chief executive officer for the Corporation for Solar Technology and Renewable Resources (CSTRR), chair of the Nevada Renewable Energy Task Force, and in a commissioner spot on the Nevada Public Utilities Commission, which gave her the encouragement to launch her own business.

“I had the opportunity to preside over a number of dockets that had, at the heart of them, the ability to advance



(renewable) technologies. It was frustrating, because it didn’t seem we had the right (legislative policies) in place,” she said of her experience on the PUC.

In 2009, McKinney-James will represent the Solar Alliance, a solar industry state-focused alliance representing a number of large solar manufacturing companies. The companies have

“come together to attempt to affect some improvements in the regulatory framework in a variety of states with significant potential for doing business,” McKinney-James added.

“Obviously, if we have the right policy and framework to attract these companies, it’s very likely one or more of them will make the decision to relocate or expand business offices here.”

However, a regulatory framework supporting better pricing on solar installations is needed.

“We simply want to be competitive enough (with pricing), so that the choice is easier to go

with cleaner options,” she said. “Right now, people still have to make the tough choices. Any time something costs more, unless there’s a strong personal or philosophical leaning, they probably won’t do it,” she said.

Issues she will lobby for at this year’s state legislative session include: changes to the implementation of Nevada’s renewable energy portfolio, net metering standards and adjustments to accommodate what she calls an “oversubscribed” Solar Generations solar rebate program at NV Energy.

And that’s just the first half of the year.

—By Brian Sodoma

Olya Banchik

Principal/Neuromuscular Dentist
Banchik Dental



Imagine leaving your homeland for the wealth of opportunity another country offered, only to learn that your true passion would not be found solely in your own success, but rather, in finding ways to help others.

In 1989, at age 12, Olya Banchik immigrated to the United States from Moscow. Even at that early age, she recognized the limitations her homeland posed in terms of her desire to excel personally and professionally.

Over the course of 20 years, Banchik adapted to a new culture and language while earning high academic honors. She received her Doctor of Dental Surgery from New York University College of Dentistry and a certificate of recognition from the American Academy of Dental Practice



Administration for excellence in academic achievement.

“It was clear to me at a young age that the United States offered incredible opportunities,” explained Banchik. “I realized that if I achieved success academically, that would lead me into a profession where I could reap great professional rewards. And by this, I don’t mean financial, but rather, the chance to use my profession to have an impact on my community.”

Banchik completed her general residency at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, and in 2008, she opened a private practice in Summerlin. Today she is recognized as one of

the dental industry’s leading neuromuscular practitioners. Banchik is also one of a handful of U.S. doctors certified to use Pure Power Mouthguard technology, which correct bite and alignment of the jaw. This line of neuromuscular dentistry is becoming increasingly important in the world of athletics.

While Banchik’s professional achievements are impressive in their own right, it’s the way she’s managed to parlay her own success into a new degree of community service that is perhaps most impressive.

In 2004, Banchik was devastated when a young friend was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Then her mother and mother-in-law also were diagnosed with the disease. Using her skills to make a difference in the lives of women touched by cancer, Banchik launched the Survivor Smile Makeover, a pro-bono endeavor that gives ovarian or breast cancer survivors the opportunity to have their spirits lifted through dental work, including teeth whitening, crowns

or veneers, filling replacements, braces and implants or partial dentures.

“... Both radiation and chemotherapy can increase the risk of oral and systemic infection,” explained Banchik.

Banchik is now planning to recruit other doctors to be part of Survivor Smile Makeover.

“I can’t remove the painful memories of a woman’s battle with cancer,” said Banchik. “But it is within my power to remove the part of the aftermath that impacts her smile. She deserves a dazzling white smile that says, ‘Yes, I’ve survived, and I am loving life!’”

—By Lisa McQuerry

Sue Naumann

Broker/Owner
Tsunami Properties Inc.

As the 2009 president of the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors (GLVAR), Southern Nevada’s largest professional organization, Sue Naumann will guide its 14,500 local members through one of the most tumultuous real estate markets in its 60-year history.

And she’ll do it while running Tsunami Properties Inc., a small, successful real estate firm focusing on property management and residential real estate that she owns with her husband.

Naumann, a 30-year veteran of the real estate industry, knows 2009 is going to be a tough year to lead the GLVAR, but she said she is ready for it.

Her biggest challenge?

“The economy and trying to provide members services and the tools they need to be successful in a down mar-

ket,” Naumann said.

On the bright side, Naumann said the National Association of Realtors is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year.

“Realtors have been the key to transactions for the last 100 years ... Real estate is cyclical, and the realtor has survived 100 years through many cycles in our economy, including the Great Depression.

“Just as houses are rekeyed when ownership transfers, we have to look at rekeying ourselves, our businesses and our association during these hard times. Real estate companies, both large and small, mortgage companies and title companies have begun the rekeying process to weather the economic storm that



has been brewing,” Naumann said.

“I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead, and my goal is to steer the association safely through the storm with the assistance of my leadership team,” she added.

Though Naumann recently received a crystal ball from the Women’s Council of Realtors when she was named its 2008 Businesswoman of the Year, she said she hasn’t learned to read it yet and prefers a “wait and see” approach when forecasting the future of Las Vegas residential real estate.

“Unfortunately this is a down cycle, but I am optimistic that we are coming out of it. According to our Multiple Listing Service, we are seeing more sales, albeit bank-owned homes are still the majority of homes being sold. The number of transactions is increasing, and

actually, we are selling more homes than we sold in 2004,” she added.

Still, Naumann admits prices are down and that has an impact on realtors’ incomes.

“There are qualified buyers who want to buy homes, however, with the subprime debacle, banks are more reluctant to lend. When the money becomes available for loans, I believe we will see the market become more stable,” she said.

At Tsunami Properties, Naumann has been working on her business plan and strategy for 2009.

“Our goal is to continue to diversify and grow our property management and community association management departments,” she said.

Overall, Naumann is positive about what 2009 will bring.

“... Experts have always said that Las Vegas is the last to feel the effects of a recession and the first to recover.”

—By Deborah Roush