



2013-2015 COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Deanna Wagner, Chair Rick Leco, Vice Chair

Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC

Remarks

Preston Prince, CME – President

The President thanked the committee members for their time and commitment to NAHRO. In partnership with the regional presidents, Preston was tasked with seating the committees. The committee members' gifts and talents were brought to the forefront so all committee appointments are deliberate. President Prince encouraged commissioner involvement throughout the leadership to include all of the conference sessions. He spoke about the strategy statements reviewed during the leadership retreat. The committee's task will be to examine these goals/strategies and establish tasks that will guide the committee in their work for the next two years and beyond. He mentioned his themes for the 2013-2015 term are:

1. to create authentic leadership (accountable and responsible);
2. to enhance relevance (in the community); and
3. to change the national rhetoric around the industry.

Saul Ramirez, CEO

Saul noted that commissioners have a different perspective back home and on the Hill. The task of being an effective advocate is so essential to NAHRO's effort to change the rhetoric, create greater relevance and awareness in our communities and create authentic leadership. Saul encouraged members to ramp up commissioner involvement, take advantage of advocacy training opportunities and concentrate efforts on governance and housing authority transparency. The Inspector General has a program on this subject that will be featured either during this year's summer or national conference.

QUESTIONS/ANSWER

Q: We should flip the focus onto the vast majority of agencies that work ethically, not on the ones that don't. How do the commissioners push that message forward?

A: Saul noted that NAHRO has reached out to the Inspector General's office and will convene a series of meetings, within 4-6 weeks, to bring clarity around what they are seeking and how we can advocate for a strong, transparent governance environment. We need to take steps when planning state and regional conference sessions to embed and seek commissioner participation in case studies of good governance, bylaws, maintenance issues and certification trainings. The committee will be kept apprised of developments and will be asked to provide feedback at appropriate time.

Q: Is HUD's attempt at implementing a new rule that would create a tiered structure for executive director compensation, taking authority away from commissioners and removing it from local governance, their quick answer to a problem?

A: Saul advised that the response appeared to be more of a knee-jerk reaction as a result of the intense scrutiny present when three housing authorities gave the appearance of a widespread problem. Senator Grassley utilized the situation to imply that action needed to be taken on this item that led to the response we saw. Statistics indicate 98% of directors and executive staff fall well below the standards set forth, while the remaining 2% tainted the process.

Tess Hembree - Advocacy Field Coordinator/Leg. Liaison

Tess reminded committee that she is their advocacy resource and for members to feel free to contact her – thembree@nahro.org Rick Leco, committee vice chair, mentioned the creation of a separate page for commissioners or a link on the advocacy page to also include a specifically tailored letter from commissioners and a commissioners Congressional District Contact (CDC) list. Tess encouraged everyone to become a CDC – regardless of whether the district is already represented. Everyone's voice counts. (**See**



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attached volunteer list). Some action taken by the CDCs is done online, i.e., action alerts, online-letters, etc., however, the level of involvement may be both online and in person and is determined by each CDC and will be tailored based on comfort zone to make sure all avenues are utilized to ensure participation and success.

[NAHRO offers three Basic CDC webinar trainings:](#)

- CDC 101 (includes responsibilities/resources, etc.) – 35-40 minutes
- Advocacy Associates, Stephanie Vance, offers Advocacy 101 (how to become a more efficient advocate) – 1 hour
- Budget/Appropriations 101 (explains the budget cycle timeline) - 45 minutes

John Bohm, Senior Director - Congressional Relations, Public Affairs and Field Operations

We have created several platforms that are assisting our advocacy efforts via more defined tools and techniques to ensure educated decision makers on Capitol Hill. We have also ramped up organizational reach by having Tess on board. John encouraged members to recruit commissioners and non-commissioners to become CDCs.

QUESTION/ANSWER

Q: Why do commissioner's voices resonate with legislators? As field operations develop, how do Tess and John envision the CDCs and LEGNET? Will they have different and/or companion roles as we move forward?

A: Commissioners have personal stories from a different perspective that resonate and have more long-term weight and power with legislators. Commissioners don't have to be a policy expert to convey that sentiment. LEGNET directs the course of action and helps to organize the CDCs. CDCs are ready to act when called upon on for specific courses of action.

Subcommittee/Ad Hoc and Joint PD Subcommittee Meeting Reports

see attached




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Regional Reports

NERC – Kevin Glynn	NERC Report Next conf: Cape Cod, MA - June 16-18
MARC - Dorothy Carty Daniel	 <p>Dorothy has been asked by the state senator to create a program honoring Thomas Mundy Peterson, of Perth Amboy, NJ. Peterson was the first African-American to vote in an election under the just-enacted provisions of the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution. His vote was cast on March 31, 1870.</p> <p>Next conf. Dover, DE - April 23-24</p>
SERC - Henrietta Snipes	Next conf: Orlando, FL - June 15-18
SWRC – Earnest Burke	<p>Winter conference, Grapevine, TX , Jan 22-24 Held commissioners ethics training. Train the trainer. Eleven commissioners in attendance. Discussed objectives for 2014-2016. Topics included: types of needed training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commissioner’s responsibilities • Understanding financial statements • Performance measurement criteria for ED evaluation • How to conduct a productive board mtg. • How to conduct an informal mtg. • Commissioners roundtable <p>Next conf.: June 23-26 - Tulsa, OK</p>
NCRC – Bobbie Butler	<p>Winter conference. Training session. New fair housing rules forthcoming. Next conf.: Des Moines, IA - April 29-May 2</p>
PNRC – George Perez	Next conf.: Portland, OR, April 28
PSWRC – Art Kurrasch	Next conf: San Francisco, CA May
MPRC – Matt Pike	<p>Winter meeting – Las Vegas, NV. Creating a regional toolkit. Next conf.: Deadwood, SD- June 16-18</p>



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Commissioners Communication

Committee member illnesses:

Beverly Bristol, Gary Gramling

Mentoring Kudos

Ernest acknowledged Homer Thompson as an outstanding mentor and source of information and guidance to him when he began to work with NAHRO as a new commissioner.

Club 21

Philip Bernal noted that Club 21 attendees discussed books and movie topics that are timely to the industry. Discussions are scheduled to be held in conjunction with the summer conference in Tampa. Club members have suggested, in the spirit of fostering greater commissioner involvement, that commissioners take the names of the books and movies back to individual agencies for discussion. It was suggested that NAHRO purchase the books and have them made available for purchase by housing authorities so they could prepare for the conversation in Tampa. The book for discussion at the summer conference is by Paul Tough, *Whatever It Takes*. The movie will be vetted by Club 21 members and relayed prior to Tampa. The movie will be shown in Tampa and a representative of the film may be in Tampa to talk about movie.

Action: Motion to adjourn moved by Homer Thompson, second by Thomas Jefferson. Motion carried.

Attendance: Deanna Wagner, Rick Leco, Barbara Allen, Willie Anderson, Philip Bernal, Earnest Burke, Bobbie Butler, Dorothy Carty Daniel, Barb Cleland, Kevin Glynn, Yolanda Hotman, Thomas Jefferson, Carolyn Jenkins, Adrian Jones, Ed Kaczka, Kyna Koch, Art Kurrasch, Michael Lacey, Catherine Luna, George Perez, Jr., Matt Pike, Bill Quirk, Carl Richie, Henrietta Snipes, Deborah Thiele, Homer Thompson, Joan Waring Smith, Fred Wescott, Cynthia White-Overton, Henry Williams.

Absent: Beverly Bristol (ill), Gary Gramling (ill) and Lamont Taylor

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014
TAMPA MARRIOTT WATERSIDE HOTEL, TAMPA, FL**



NAHRO

building communities together

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VOLUNTEER LIST FOR JOHN/TESS - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONTACT (CDC) LIST - 3/2014

NAME	CONTACT	STATE	Cong. District. - Sen/Rep
Barbara Allen	bbainsb@gmail.com	CA	Capps
Willie Anderson	wsawrites@hotmail.com	TX	Cornyn
Philip Bernal	titobernal@aol.com	UT	
Earnest Burke	Burke.agency@gmail.com	TX	Cornyn
Bobbie Butler	bbutler@grhousing.org	MI	
Dorothy Carty Daniel	732-442-4875	NJ	
Barbara Cleland	bcleland@aumhc.org	CO	
Yolanda Hotman	Y_hotman@yahoo.com	TX	Castro
Thomas Jefferson	thomas.jefferson.cqzk@statefarm.com	ND	
Carolyn Jenkins	Carolyn.jenkins98@yahoo.com 973-985-1164	NJ	
Adrian Jones	ayjjns@yahoo.com	CA	
Ed Kaczka	edkaczka@yahoo.com	NJ	
Kyna Koch	kynakoch@gmail.com	KY	
Catherine Luna	Catherine.luna@verizon.net	MA	
Bill Quirk	billjqw@verizon.net	RI	
Carl Richie	crichie@austin.rr.com	TX	
Henrietta Snipes	hsnipesoha@aol.com	AL	Shelby
Deborah Thiele	Debbie.thiele@csh.org	WA	
Homer Thompson	Rooster12@mcec.coop	AR	
Cynthia White-Overton	cindywhiteoverton@verizon.net	RI	Langevin
Henry Williams	comprehensiveins@bellsouth.net	SC	Clyburn

VOLUNTEER LIST FOR MEMBER SERVICES - COMMISSIONER MENTORS - 3/2014

NAME	CONTACT	AGENCY
Philip Bernal	titobernal@aol.com	Salt Lake City, UT
Earnest Burke	Burke.agency@gmail.com	Plano, TX
Bobbie Butler	bbutler@grhousing.org	Grand Rapids, MI
Barb Cleland	bcleland@aumhc.org	Aurora, CO
Dorothy Carty Daniel	732-442-4875	Perth Amboy, NJ
Yolanda Hotman	Y_hotman@yahoo.com	San Antonio, TX
Carolyn Jenkins	Carolyn.jenkins98@yahoo.com	Irvington, NJ
Ed Kaczka	edkaczka@yahoo.com	Bayonne, NJ
Art Kurrasch	akurrasch@comcast.net	Alameda, CA
Richard Leco	mleco@aol.com	North Attleboro, MA
Matt Pike	mpike@lawrence.sd.us	Lawrence County, SD
Bill Quirk	bjwq@verizon.net	Warwick, RI
Carl Richie	crichie@austin.rr.com	Austin, TX
Henrietta Snipes	hsnipesoha@aol.com	Opelika, AL
Homer Thompson	Rooster12@mcec.coop	Oseola, AL
Deanna Wagner	dmwagner2@cox.net	Omaha, NE
Joan Waring Smith	joansmith@rrcc.edu	Lakewood, CO
Cindy White-Overton	cindywhiteoverton@verizon.net	East Greenwich, RI
Henry Williams	843-577-0652	Charleston, SC



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1. Veteran commissioners, who serve on the commissioners committee, act as mentors to the new, incoming committee members. Additionally, expand this concept to all new commissioners by utilizing the First Time Attendees meeting at all conferences. Chair, Deanna Wagner and vice chair, Rick Leco along with two additional commissioners committee mentors to attend meeting and be available to act as mentors to any commissioner who seeks information and to network. (**see attached list of mentors**) Work with member services to ensure the opportunity is available during that session.

Professional Development Subcommittee

Joan Waring Smith, Chair – Dorothy Carty Daniel, Vice Chair

Attendance:

Joan Waring Smith, Dorothy, Carty-Daniel, Henrietta Snipes, Debbie Thiele

Business plan:

Goal 1: Sustain and enhance the NAHRO Professional Development System (NPDS) to position NAHRO as the recognized leader in developing the professional expertise and credibility of NAHRO members and others, as well as the credibility of the housing and community development industry as a whole, through the highest quality educational offerings, certification, and information needed in a changing environment.

Strategy 2 - Maximize access to NAHRO's Professional Development offerings

Tasks as designated by subcommittee chair:

1. Work with Member Services committee to create a new commissioners packet which housing authorities can utilize (welcome to your leadership path). The purpose of this packet is ready info to provide for board chairs to provide to new commissioners and to educate the public regarding NAHRO's services and educational opportunities available which includes:
 - Commissioner handbook
 - Commissioner job description
 - Education sequence opportunities - NPDS information to include – commissioner certification, course options for commissioners
 - Introduction to the Legislative Network and Advocacy page, Advocacy training
 - List of Commissioner Mentors.

2. Resident Issues Course Outline

Club 21, a book club held during the legislative conference during lunch time, suggested that the topics of race/poverty/veterans be embedded in professional development offerings. When the joint meeting of the PD NPDS committee and the Commissioners Committee PD subcommittees convened, this item was brought to their attention in the form of an amendment to the resident issues course outline previously submitted to include these topics. Joan met with the PD subcommittee and elected to draft a revision incorporating the topics race/poverty and forward to the Professional Development subcommittee chair to move process forward. After this meeting, Joan forwarded [amended outline](#) to PD Vice chair and PD commissioners training subcommittee chair, Duane Hopkins.



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Additional discussion:

- I live here campaign
- Speak to senators
- Ask about advocacy course
- Involve mayors
- Stress importance of certifications
- Make easier access to training and make more affordable
- Suggestions: Racism and poverty
- Vision of NAHRO

3. During joint PD NPDS/Commissioners' PD subcommittee meeting, it was noted that a data analysis has to be conducted to determine feasibility of producing the resident issues course. Housing Authorities must answer whether the course is needed, wanted and suggested price point or such a course. Once the Professional Development committee has gathered questions, Joan will create a survey and then ask the committee to take the survey to their respective housing authorities. Data will be gathered and presented to Professional Development. Email [Joan](#) with any additional information deemed appropriate to be incorporated in the outline.

Joan advised that commissioner fundamentals has been licensed to expand access to commissioner training and reduce cost of expensive travel by way of training centers. Certified trainers who serve on the committee are: Henrietta Snipes (SERC), Joan Waring Smith (MPCRC), chair Deanna Wagner (NCRC).

For additional information on certification criteria, please contact [Blake Pavlik](#) or [Sharon Sherrill](#), Professional Development division. The region pays a licensing fee to NAHRO to have a train the trainer session. Candidates take the course and then get certified by NAHRO to train for the region. To ensure that at least one commissioner participates in training, training should start at chapter and regional level.