



**2011-2013 COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Alan Styles, Chair      Deanna Wagner, Vice Chair**  
**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 17, 2013**  
**Plaza Building – Concourse Level, Governors Square 16**  
**Sheraton Downtown, Denver, CO**

Alan Styles, Chair called the meeting to order. Roll was taken, guests were greeted. **Moment of Silence:** Requested by Chair Alan Styles in memory of Heather Marrie, Fred Wescott's daughter, who passed May 18. She worked as an ad manager for Gambino Realtors for 14 years. She is survived by her husband, Jim; children, Zach and Ashlyn Marrie. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the Wescott/Marrie family.

**Action: Motion to approve March, 2013 minutes moved by Homer Thompson seconded by George Perez. Motion Carried.**

Commissioners track sessions for the 2013 conference were reviewed and Rick Leco's suggestions for additional sessions were approved by committee.

**Remarks**

**Betsey Martens    NAHRO President**

The President's theme this term is Educate, Active, Elevate. She applauds your work in each of these disciplines.

**Educate:** Betsey applauded the committee's work to spread the word about commissioner certification/training. Betsey encourages the commissioners to visit the [Re-think website](#). Their goal is to help Americans reevaluate their perceptions about public housing.

**Activate:** President Martens advised she hears from Washington, DC that sequestration is not a big deal. Those in congress who voted for this measure do not see the aftermath of their vote. You as a housing and community development ambassador and advocate must speak out on behalf of your housing authority and community regarding the importance of the programs and the effect of the cuts on the programs that assist those we serve. Work with your executive director so that the message is uniform and all are on one accord. President Martens also encouraged commissioners to speak with your executive director regarding the authority's advocacy and media plans.

**Elevate:** She congratulated the committee on their efforts to have full regional representation of commissioners on the Legislative Network, the work to stay on target with the strategic plan goals and for Matt Pike's willingness to chair the commissioner's track on the national conference planning committee.

**Saul Ramirez    NAHRO CEO**

Saul applauded Betsey for being such an active advocate/leader for NAHRO. He, too, extended his appreciation to the committee as you bring your efforts to bear on moving the NAHRO's goals forward. He reiterated the sentiment of President Martens regarding the re-think website, a collaborative effort with NAHRO and sister organizations, and encouraged commissioners to visit the website directly as noted above or through the link on the NAHRO website home page. The website showcases stories and focuses on the importance of public housing in the lives of those who are in need of decent, safe and affordable housing. This is a portal that can be used in your communities to discuss/compare/contrast what is being done in your respective communities to deal with the hardships experienced as a result of sequestration. The stories featured on the website are from residents and are a great way to encourage your residents to become advocates, if they aren't already, and offer encouragement to those who are.

**Q/A:** Rick Leco asked Saul about steps being taken to bolster the NAHRO brand. NAHRO has media/press releases and often the media request interviews and we provide them. When Betsey is visiting the regions/chapters, NAHRO reaches out to the local media. If you want to have a conversation with the media, it should begin with housing, and NAHRO as a sub-plot of that conversation. A lot of momentum has been built with the Re-think campaign. Both Saul and Betsey agree that it may be losing steam at this point so we need to reignite the national conversation. However, just two months ago, the Rethink campaign prompted discussions about public housing on national tv shows like *Good Morning America* and *The View*.



**2011-2013 COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Alan Styles, Chair     Deanna Wagner, Vice Chair**  
**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 17, 2013**  
**Plaza Building – Concourse Level, Governors Square 16**  
**Sheraton Downtown, Denver, CO**

Rick asked is there a way to contact former public housing residents who are now noted celebrities and solicit their assistance in the effort to bring more attention to public housing and the residents who are served. He advised there are a lot of celebrities in the sports, motion picture and political arena who had personal experiences with public housing. The challenge is most celebrities have managers who wish compensation for their involvement. Jewel charged a minimal fee for her involvement. Saul invites commissioners to forward information to him on any celebrity or notable person who would be willing to assist us for little/no cost.

President Martens added that she is on the national advisory group board who formulated the rethink campaign. Currently, they are developing a list of regional potential contacts. If you have suggestions, please forward to Betsey. She also mentioned that the [National Public Housing Museum](#) in Chicago does a great job of celebrating the lives of extraordinary people who grew up in public housing. Betsey suggests commissioners get on their email list.

A marketing campaign using NAHRO/Re-think decal was mentioned. The CEO advised they would think that through as a marketing tool.

**Update: Congressional/Advocacy**  
**John Bohm, Sr. Dir. Cong. Rel., Public Affairs & Field Operations**

Thanked the committee for their attendance during difficult budgetary times, travel restrictions and sequestration. John introduced new addition to the NAHRO staff, Tess Hembree, Legislative Liaison/Field Operations Coordinator. Tess officially joined NAHRO in May 2013 and attended the Legislative Conference in March as an observer. Tess serves as our liaison to Advocacy Associates, a company that is providing NAHRO with additional support/service. She also works with John on Capitol Hill with specific focus on the community development inventory. Her primary role is field coordinator and she is a valuable resource for the committee. John urged LEGNET attendees to attend upcoming meeting and walked the committee through timeline of events.

<b>JULY - WEEK OF July 22 2013</b>		
THUD spending bill		
COMMENTS	ACTION	
There is no easy room for agreement between the two versions. The process to finalize what HUD will get for FY2014, beginning October 1, will be prolonged perhaps until the end of the year. As a commissioner, you won't be able to easily predict what next year's budget will be for you. It is time to discuss a strategy to deal with uncertainty, and what to do to encourage decision makers to reverse this trend.	House	Senate
	Undecided	Ready to move
	\$967 billion	\$1 trillion+
COMMENTS	ACTION	
Tess Hembree advised Senate finance committee to examine tax implications, tax breaks and perhaps come up with a new tax plan. Senate Finance committee chairman – Max Baucus and ranking member, Orrin Hatch established a deadline of July 26 for senators to submit their priorities. There may be movement within the next 6 months, as it is in the infancy stage currently. Senator Baucus is retiring and will want to move on this prior to the mid terms.	Tax reform	



**2011-2013 COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Alan Styles, Chair     Deanna Wagner, Vice Chair**  
**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 17, 2013**  
**Plaza Building – Concourse Level, Governors Square 16**  
**Sheraton Downtown, Denver, CO**

**AUGUST – Congress in recess**

August recess begins, ~~which means~~ representatives and senators will return home to meet with constituents. It is critical to reemphasize the impact of the CR and budget cuts will have on your agency and community. It is harmful to the programs that assist the underserved and a remedy is needed. Continue pressure on them to affect positive remedies.

Cont. Resolution (CR) likely to be in place after Sept. 30

We are not out of the woods and if the CR is in place, govt. can keep operating but at current levels, minus another 5% under sequestration.

John and Tess encourage commissioners to attend the session during the summer conference on how to formulate an agency advocacy plan.

Rick asked John and Tess about the development of a specific training program on advocacy to inform commissioner boards what their role is in advocacy. Additionally, he asks if a commissioner advocacy page could be created to address letter writing needs of residents and commissioners. Tess is working to compile advocacy training materials specifically for the session at the conference but material may be used also for webinars, etc. John addressed the commissioners' advocacy page request by advising that the current advocacy page is for everyone. It was created to ensure that everyone receives the same message and is on the same page. It is more effective if each agency has its own plan and NAHRO supports that plan with tools rather than NAHRO attempting to nationally tailor letters for each issue.

Moses asked John if an advocacy course/training for commissioners online can be produced as a webinar session. John advised we have created a partnership with Advocacy Associates and we now have an advocacy trainer onboard and ready to work with us on the kinds of projects you referred to. We will have a conversation with PD regarding this and your subcommittee should be feeding him and the PD Commissioners certification subcommittee information on this item. Tess is our liaison to Advocacy Associates so please do not hesitate to contact her regarding this item.

Carl advised that an audit of a Texas agency's budget determined that agency employees cannot engage in advocacy by federal law but commissioners can because they are volunteers. He asked if there is some way to get clarification on this issue. Carl advised his agency's remedy to this is for commissioners to share information knowing that the agency staff can't walk into someone's office and advocate. John has advised that over the years, NAHRO has provided guidance to the best of their ability on what is and is not permissible based on HUD statutes, however they cannot provide legal advice and would have to speak with the accountant to learn more about this issue.

Subcommittee reports – see attached



**2011-2013 COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Alan Styles, Chair     Deanna Wagner, Vice Chair**  
**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 17, 2013**  
**Plaza Building – Concourse Level, Governors Square 16**  
**Sheraton Downtown, Denver, CO**

**Regional Reports**

<b>PNRC – George Perez</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conference; April 29, Portland, OR Ron Oldham has retired PNRC is working with Karolle Hughes the new regional service officer (RSO). <b>George Perez will be Regional VP- Commissioners.</b></li> </ul>
<b>PSWRC – Moses Mayne</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conference: April 21-23, San Diego, CA. Fall conference cancelled due to lack of funding and low attendance. Chapters are doing well be the region is taking a hit at this time. <b>Art Kurrasch is the Regional VP- Commissioners.</b></li> </ul>
<b>NCRC – Deanna Wagner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fred Wescott is been elected VP- Commissioners</b></li> <li>Great conference, May 13-15, St. Paul, MN, next conference, Des Moines, Iowa – April, 2014</li> </ul>
<b>MPRC – Thomas Jefferson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concluded conference, May 8-10, Colorado Springs, CO</li> </ul>
<b>SWRC - Homer Thompson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concluded conference, June 10-13, Galveston, TX. Worked with Habitat for Humanity to build a home. 29 commissioners took fundamentals course.</li> <li><b>Earnest Burke will be the Regional VP – Commissioners.</b></li> </ul>
<b>SERC – Johnny Johnson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concluded conference, June 23-25, Atlanta, GA. Over 200 commissioners attended the conference. Fall conference, November 6-8, Hilton Head, SC. <b>Johnny Johnson will be working on the advocacy plan prior to the fall meeting when he is sworn in as incoming Regional VP – Commissioners.</b></li> </ul>
<b>MARC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rescheduled with PAHRA September 10-13, Lancaster, PA</li> <li><b>Dorothy Carty Daniels retains her position as Regional VP - Commissioners</b></li> </ul>
<b>NERC – Kevin Glynn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Posted on Commissioners Committee page</a></li> <li>MASS NAHRO – fall conference, November 18-19, Connecticut. Worked on their strategic plan and engaged in some PD sessions; outlined legislation that the chapter supports;</li> <li>Rhode Island and very active, i.e., partnerships with social service agencies/providers, expanding online communications, establishing alternate collaboration efforts utilizing social media, establishing strategic plan, etc.</li> <li>Maine, newly formed housing authority – 3 regional housing authorities (Portland, South Portland and Westbrook) formed the Greater Portland Housing Authority;</li> <li><b>Kevin Glynn is Regional VP – Commissioners.</b></li> </ul>

**With no additional Committee Communication or miscellaneous items, motion to adjourn meeting by Homer Thompson second by Carl Richie. Motion carried.**

**Attendance:** Alan Styles, Deanna Wagner, Jean Banks, Lonnie Boykins, Beverly Bristol, Bobbie Butler, Barb Cleland, Kevin Glynn, Gary Gramling, Yolanda Hotman, Thomas Jefferson, Carolyn Jenkins, Art Kurrasch, Johnny Johnson, Michael Lacey, Rick Leco, Moses Mayne, Angela McCormick, Carol Nunley, George Perez, Bill Quirk, Carl Richie, Henrietta Snipes, Homer Thompson, Fred Wescott and Henry Williams.

**Absent:** Earnest Burke, Dorothy Carty-Daniel, Craig Griffith, Catherine Luna, Matt Pike, Lamont Taylor and Joan Waring Smith.



**2011-2013 COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Alan Styles, Chair Deanna Wagner, Vice Chair**  
**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 17, 2013**  
**Plaza Building – Concourse Level, Governors Square 16**  
**Sheraton Downtown, Denver, CO**

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Joint meeting: Communication/Advocacy - Bill Quirk, Chair**  
**Legislative - Rick Leco, Chair**

**Attendees:**

Communication/Advocacy: Chair, J. William Quirk Vice Chair, Fred Wescott, Barb Cleland, Kevin Glynn, Gary Gramling, Thomas Jefferson, George Perez, Homer Thompson.

Legislative: Rick Leco, Chair, Angela McCormick, Carl Richie, Henry Williams

Discussion: Commissioners Corner article schedule has been established through May/June 2014:

- Bobbie Butler, Resident Services – Sept/Oct 2013
- Fred Wescott, Communication/Advocacy (Homeless Veterans)– Nov/Dec 2013
- Moses Mayne, PD Jan/Feb 2014
- Kevin Glynn, March/April 2014
- Earnest Burke, May/June 2014

Rick Leco advised advocacy is more than just a yearly visit to Washington, it's a consistent effort on the local, state and national level to interact with congressional staff and reps. He advises NAHRO's advocacy page on the website is an effective tool for advocacy efforts, he feels that commissioners should have a similar page as their efforts are specific, i.e. creation of letters crafted to congress from the commissioner's standpoint. In addition to providing commissioners' certification, a course should be created that features how to overcome obstacles that preclude commissioners from being more involved via professional development course for commissioners - local level advocacy basics.

Public relations/marketing – Rick feels NAHRO does not promote itself as it should so the name/product branding should be boosted and that commissioners can greatly enhance this effort. Perhaps a chamber of commerce slant, stickers (NAHRO member) etc. to prominently display. NAHRO offers an advocacy policy plan which can be used to develop agency advocacy plans. He notes that the commissioners should be an integral part of any such plan.

---

**Professional Development**  
**Moses Mayne, Chair**

Attendees: Lonnie Boykins, Beverly Bristol, Michael Lacey, Moses Mayne, Carol Nunley and Henrietta Snipes.

Joint meeting: Professional Development Commissioners Certification Subcommittee and Commissioners Committee PD subcommittee

The Resident Services for Commissioners Course Outline has been completed and forwarded to the full commissioners committee for comment. Moses congratulated Joan Waring Smith for her efforts in pulling participants together for lively discussions and for fine-tuning outline to complete this task. Having received no additional comments, the outline will be forwarded to the Professional



**2011-2013 COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Alan Styles, Chair     Deanna Wagner, Vice Chair**  
**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 17, 2013**  
**Plaza Building – Concourse Level, Governors Square 16**  
**Sheraton Downtown, Denver, CO**

Development Commissioners certification subcommittee to tailor outline into a professional development product, i.e., session, webinar, etc.

It was also noted during the joint meeting with our PD subcommittee requested that a commissioner participate in the course training to ensure that the commissioner's perspective is adequately represented.

Discussed requirements for a state certified instructor and a NAHRO certified instructor.

Development timeline: 6 month-year dedicated to course development. In-house staff will review course outline and an outside consultant will develop course.

Create a Commissioners advocacy course and discussed more webinar /e-learning courses for Commissioners.

---

**Resident Issues**  
**Bobbie Butler, Chair**

**Attendees:**

Bobbie Butler, Yolanda Hotman, Art Kurrasch, Carolyn V. Jenkins and Jean Banks

**Guests:**

Marlene C. Hurd, Oakland Housing Authority Commissioner ([mchurd.mc@gmail.com](mailto:mchurd.mc@gmail.com))  
Sandra Boutell, Belding MI Housing Authority Commissioner ([quietlady70@hotmail.com](mailto:quietlady70@hotmail.com))  
Bill Quirk, Providence HA Commissioner

**Items of discussion:**

Voter Registration in light of recent Supreme Court ruling. State requirements vary. Education needed now in order to advise residents of changes in ID requirements. This education effort needs to start now and continue until all are familiar, rather than wait for a national election. On a similar, but separate topic, voter registration by HAs needs to be an ongoing effort. One commissioner advised that at their HA voter registration is addressed at annual re-certification (assuming the person is eligible to vote, which the leasing agent would know). All thought this was an excellent idea, as well as having resident "initial or sign" that the topic was discussed on that date. Discussion also addressed including the younger generation and being sure they, too, are registered and engaged in this important process. (This effort should also include HA employees.)

Subcommittee encouraged members to "Identify individual state requirements with respect to which forms of identification are acceptable/required to assure a smooth voting experience.

Sequestration: Chair suggested a letter writing campaign, both regular mail and on-line, for residents to send to legislators. Such correspondence from a resident should be very effective. Chair discussed with John Bohm to move this item forward.

Commissioners Corner Article: Recently Carleen Cumberbach drafted an article. LaTonya was asked and has forward a copy of that article to Bobbie Butler who will work with the committee to expand on the article for the next issue.