



2021-2023 Commissioners Committee Agenda

Monday, September 11, 2023 | 1:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. ET

Zoom login: Meeting ID: 852 9289 2401 | Passcode: 187041

Link: <https://nahro-org.zoom.us/j/85292892401?pwd=OWdjRG9PS1hFZjJlWlF1ajBmMHhOZz09>

Staff Liaison: La Tonya Rajah – lraiah@nahro.org

<https://www.nahro.org/about/nahro-leadership/national-standingcommittees/commissioners-committee/>

Lucille Boss, Chair – Presiding

Adrian “AJ” Jones, Vice Chair

9/11 Moment of Silence – remembrance of those lost in Pennsylvania, Pentagon, and New York plane disaster

Call to Order/ Welcome/ Roll Call

- Approval of Minutes: March 21, 2023, Minutes May 1, 2023, July 13, 2023

Committee Work

- Draft 21-23 Sample for review- (use 19-21 [Transition Report](#) as guide – also attached

Advocacy Subcommittee – Renee Smith, Chair

- Assessment - Advocacy for Commissioners – E-learning (August 16)
- August Advocacy results – Tess Hembree
- How can we support certification program? (every committee member should be certified (NCC).

Communication Subcommittee – AJ Jones, Acting Chair

- Announce Commissioner of the year recipient - Johnny Johnson, Working Group
- Suggestions for booth presentation (Highlight Commissioners Resource page, Highlight – commissioner of the year recipient (photo), highlight JOHCD spring/summer article)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee – Zella Knight, Chair

- Refine - Talking points see July, 2023 minutes

National Conference

- Volunteers – Commissioners Booth
- Handouts – Commissioners’ Mentors

Closing Remarks – Chair Lucille Boss

Zoom dial- in numbers

Dial: +1 305 224 1968 US
+1 309 205 3325 US
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 646 931 3860 US
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 689 278 1000 US
+1 719 359 4580 US
+1 253 205 0468 US
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 360 209 5623 US
+1 386 347 5053 US
+1 507 473 4847 US
+1 564 217 2000 US
+1 669 444 9171 US
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

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2021-2023 Commissioners Committee Minutes

In-person Meeting: Thursday, July 13, 2023 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ET

Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, DC

Independence Ballroom C, Independence Level (5B) and via Zoom

Staff Liaison: La Tonya Rajah – lrajah@nahro.org

Lucille Boss, Chair – Presiding

Adrian “AJ” Jones, Vice Chair

Before Chair Boss called the meeting to order, she made a land acknowledgement presentation. The Grand Hyatt, 2023 Summer Symposium location, currently occupies ancestral lands of indigenous tribes, and the land acknowledgement bestowed gratitude and homage to those who served as stewards of the land. – See attached document.

Chair Boss called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. and welcomed the committee and guests. Roll call did not result in a quorum. Approval of March 21, May 1, and July 13, 2023 minutes will be added to the October 5 meeting agenda.

Attendance policy: Attendance policy was relaxed due to the COVID pandemic, however, as we return to in-person, as well as virtual meetings, the NAHRO attendance policy states if a member has three absences during the two-year term in which they serve, the member can be removed from the committee. Should they wish to continue, based on the type of appointment, regional appointment or presidential appointment, the member will speak to the respective president and note reason for absences and request reinstatement. They will determine whether reinstatement is granted no alternates or proxies are permitted.

Full/Subcommittee Discussions

Full Committee | Lucille Boss

- Fall 2023 National Conference focus area(s):
 - Strategic Plan updates
 - Election for 2023-2025 Officers
- Fall 2023 National Conference session proposal(s) submitted/accepted.
 - [Pathways Out of Poverty: Addressing Social Determinants of Health](#)

Advocacy | Renee Smith

- Preparation for [August Advocacy](#) [Action Alert Center](#)
- Advocacy for Commissioners – [launching pilot in August](#)
Ms. Smith encourages the committee’s input on the training. Any committee member interested can audit the training. The training will be available to the membership. Please contact her with your comments prior to the National Conference – rsmith@ypsilantihc.org

Communication | Lucille Boss for Char Reavis

- Reminder deadline August 4 - Commissioner of the Year submissions

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion | Zella Knight 2 out of 4 DEI sessions are Commissioner-based

- Fall 2023 National Conference session proposal(s) submitted and accepted:
 - [What is Equity? Through the Lens of a Commissioner](#)
 - [Racial Wealth Gap Simulation](#)

- Talking Points - **What is a housing authority?**
 - Public housing authorities contribute to the economic viability of the community.
 - Tailor message to group explaining how the housing authority is relevant to that group. For example, if you are addressing a school board, provide statistics. X number of your teachers or x number of your students have homes in communities via the housing authorities.
 - Housing authorities are important community partners who provide safe, affordable housing for your teachers, staff, and the people you serve. They provide programs such as Family Self-Sufficiency, to assist with furthering educational goals and careers.
 - Break and combat stigmas and perceptions associated with public housing authorities, residents, and poverty.
 - Note scenarios how one problem can cause someone to rely on public housing. Veteran homelessness, etc.
 - Connect/address systems, people and community - break down the stereotypical ideas of school districts, city services, government agencies, communities, law enforcement, etc. regarding what the housing authority (agency) does, resident type, and the community the housing is in.
 - Stress that residents who live in public housing are employed taxpayers who contribute to the community.

Subcommittee assignment: Each subcommittee member is to create a talking point script regarding your community and present that script to Chair Zella Knight and Commissioners Committee Chair, Lucille Boss.

Ask:

- Housing Authority properties they own and operate were constructed with federal and private funds from community entities to assist community residents. The residents, through housing programs, contribute to the economic viability of the community by creating jobs in construction employment, and other businesses that contribute to the community. It is not a government program with “free” money allocated.
- Here’s how you can refer your families to us....
- Here are the areas you can partner with us.... Community transportation (split cost), internships, scholarships, skilled trade programs.
- National spokesperson to highlight positives and dispel negative stereotypes.
- Use Veteran homelessness and VASH as an example of how to dispel stereotypes. One can be one step from being homeless by way of medical bills, death of breadwinner or breadwinner loses job.

Chair Boss asked the full committee when they are identified as a housing authority commissioner, how do you talk about that?

Talking Points

- The housing authority may be the largest landlord in the municipality.
- Section 8, HCV vouchers are administered in that municipality woven into those communities.
- Sometimes, commissioners are asked how did they become a commissioner and onboarding. Sometimes commissioners have to defend properties and have to dispel the negative connotations that surround housing authority properties.
- A commissioner should mention all of the great programs the public housing authority offers. The commissioner is an advocate to provide support, housing program opportunities and education to residents, not to ensure permanent public housing, but as a stepping stone to move out of public housing.
- How to gain access to statistical data to champion the needs of public housing residents? For example, if you are speaking to a school board member, note how many families that live in their district are residents. Have this conversation with staff leadership.

- The public housing can note how many of its former residents are now homeowners, perhaps via the family self-sufficiency programs, etc.
- To alleviate the stigma, provide specific examples of residents who have successfully completed other programs that move them out of public housing or assist them in career development, scholarships, etc. that assist residents.
- Ask agency leadership to bring uplifting stories to the forefront and showcase them.
- Reinforce, not just public housing, stress, collaboration, we, and commissioners as ambassadors a bridge from the agency to the public.
- Include statistics for the city and municipalities, not just the public housing agencies.
- Make sure to tell stories that the commissioner (resident and non-resident) has experienced. First-hand knowledge and experience is extremely important in driving home the value and need for these programs.

How do commissioners interact/engage with residents?

- National night out – visit different communities, i.e. barbeques, etc. and support them.
- Encourage residents to be a part of the process and to become ambassadors also. Resident commissioners play a key role here as they are both and bring additional experience and knowledge to both the residents and the housing agency.
- Describe the board of commissioners makeup, banking, social services, private developers, health field, etc., board goals, networking.
- In some cases, public housing is being replaced with low-income housing tax credits and other financial tools to create affordable and supportive housing.
- History of public housing.
- Joining with law enforcement to provide speaking opportunities, situational awareness and dispel stigmas and stereotypes. Take advantage of all of other city departments, i.e., fire department, ambulatory service, etc.

Please send additional talking points to Lucille Boss - lucilleboss@me.com or La Tonya Rajah – lraiah@nahro.org

Leadership Remarks

NAHRO President, Patricia Wells

President Wells, applauded work of the commissioners who volunteer for the residents and the community. She encouraged outreach to resident commissioners and newly appointed commissioners in the agency and community as well as other potential non-traditional partnerships with the housing authority. It is essential to lean upon the voice of residents and those new to commissioner work to bring a different and necessary perspective to the table, pertaining to health care, environmental community justice, education, and equity. This is necessary for the next 90 years.

Senior Vice President, George Guy

The Commissioners work is essential and particularly commented Chair Lucille Boss and Vice Chair AJ Jones for their leadership. He receives calls from members who want to either be appointed or re-appointed to the Commissioners Committee. He would like to introduce the opportunity to understand policy, housing authority governance and the role/responsibilities of an effective commissioner.

Chief Executive Officer, Mark Thiele

Mentorship, as mentioned by SVP Guy is key and he too, applauds the committee for its work and to continue outreach via zoom at this meeting to continue to engage and include its members. Serving in multiple perspectives is key and your expertise is critically important.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR LEADERSHIP

Comments

Renee Smith: Thanked leadership for hearing our concern and offering registration assistance for small agencies to attend the Washington Conference and the Summer Symposium.

Fred Banuelos: Each session, when appropriate, should include a commissioner to impart their point of view and expertise.

CEO Thiele appreciated the comment, made a note of it, and advised the timing could not have been better. During the call for presentations, we may be able to work with the presenters to add that suggestion in, if not for New Orleans, definitely for future call for presentations.

AJ Jones: Board of Commissioners should budget for commissioners travel.

Regional Reports

MARC – Fred Banuelos – conference in May, Racial Wealth Gap Simulation session was held and will be presented at the National Conference.

NCRC – Joe Grisson – Many commissioners were unable to attend their last conference. Program was packed with commissioner offerings. Goal is more outreach to them to participate. Newsletter created – expected launch August. Chair Boss asked if Joe could forward that newsletter to the committee. **Draft link sent via zoom – chat.**

SERC – Johnny Johnson – Completed conference approximately 200 commissioners, concentrating on commissioner certification. Training was successful. Hilton Head Winter conference in November, 2023.

PSWRC - Lucille Boss - Conference included commissioner sessions.

PNRC – Joycelynn Straight- Conference in Portland, April with approximately 200 in attendance. Great attendance, session on rule changes, great networking.

MPRC – Phil Bernal – Conference in St. George, UT was successfully attended over 220. Roundtable session with new commissioners. Asked about the commissioners handbook. Next year's conference will be in Colorado, May 2024.

Additional Comments

- Forward regional sessions to La Tonya to add to our suggested sessions along with their status with further discussions for 2024 national conference commissioners track session and use as a regional repository so others can duplicate.
 - Regional DEI component on the commissioners resource page.
 - Sending letters to congressional staff for 90 days to celebrate NAHRO at 90.
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Attendance

Chair: Lucille Boss
Vice Chair: Adrian "AJ" Jones
MARC: Fred Banuelos,
NCRC: Renee Smith, Joe Grisson
SERC: Johnny Johnson, Brenda Young, Joycelynn Straight
PNRC: George Perez
PSWRC: Zella Knight, Dirk Hoek
MPRC: Phil Bernal

Guests: Carol Branham, Nevada, MO; Cody Schmidt, Nevada, MO; Lizette Mill, Housing Catalyst, Fort Collins, CO; Fermika Smith, Commissioner, Vicksburg Housing Authority, Vicksburg, MS, Milton Lawrence, Louisiana

Absent:

NERC: Richard Conforti, Neil Flynn, Sam Bergami, Nikki Vazquez
MARC: John Benton, Dorothy Carty Daniel, Richard Laferte, Bobby Wilson, Angela Reed
NCRC: Alanna Conard, Grant Henry, Delois McKinley Eldridge, Gary Valentine
SERC: Johnny Johnson, Carleen Cumberbatch
SWRC: Susan Ulrich, Gary Allsup, Willie Haynes
PNRC: Char Reavis,
PSWRC: Homer Hall, Gregory Hartwig, Dirk Hoek
MPRC: Barb Cleland, Thomas Jefferson

Land Acknowledgement

I'd like for us to acknowledge that the land on which we gather for this conference, at the Grand Hyatt, occupies the present ancestral lands of the Nacotchtank (Anacostan) people and over time neighboring Piscataway and Pamunkey people, who are present-day-called Washington, D.C. and Maryland's first families. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and extend our gratitude for their stewardship of this land.

The strategic location of the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, tidewater and piedmont, made the area a major crossroads and trading center for coastal and interior tribes. These river systems and current national parks are where the Piscataway, Pamunkey, the Nentego (Nanichoke), Mattaponi, Chickahominy, Monacan and the Powhatan cultures thrived. The village of Nacotchtank (from which the name Anacostia is derived) was the largest of the three American Indian villages located in the Washington area and is believed to have been a major trading center. The people of Nacotchtank, or Anacostans, were an Algonquian-speaking people that lived along the southeast side of the Anacostia River in the area between today's Bolling Air Force Base and Anacostia Park, in the floodplain below the eastern-most section of today's Fort Circle Parks. A second town, Nameroughquena, most likely stood on the Potomac's west bank, opposite of what today is Theodore Roosevelt Island. Another village existed on a narrow bluff between today's Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and MacArthur Boulevard in the northwest section of the city. Today, roughly 4,000 American Indians live in present-day Washington, D.C.

We thank the members of the Native Indigenous Peoples, sovereign nations and people of the African and Caribbean diaspora for their centuries-long contributions and continued stewardship of the area and for their innumerable contributions throughout the greater Washington region and beyond.

We acknowledge the legacy of the ancestral homelands and traditional territories of Native Indigenous Peoples from which they were dispossessed and the systemic erasure of their complex and unique histories and cultures. We further recognize the role of land dispossession as a means to expand slavery across North America. We acknowledge the heritage of the African and Caribbean diaspora and acknowledge the violent reality of slavery and forced labor of Black and Brown bodies that built this area.

Washington, D.C. has a rich history of Black culture and influence despite centuries of economic disinvestment, police violence, and lack of voting representation in Congress. We honor and celebrate their resilience and continue to see the importance of this land and its history that is home to people of many diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

We commit to continuing to learn about the history and ongoing impacts of colonization, and to actively work toward decolonization and the restoration of land and resources to Indigenous peoples. I commit to integrating a land and labor acknowledgement into our events and activities, and to using our platform as housers to advocate for policies and practices that promote equity, justice and dignity for all.



2021-2023 Commissioners Committee Minutes

Virtual Meeting: Tuesday, May 1, 2023 – 1:00 -2:00 p.m. ET
Staff Liaison: La Tonya Rajah lrajah@nahro.org

Next Full Committee meeting – July 13 in conjunction with the NAHRO Symposium in Washington, DC.

Lucille Boss, Chair – Presiding

Adrian “AJ” Jones, Vice Chair

Chair Boss called the meeting to order. There was no quorum so the [March 21, 2023 minutes](#) will be approved at the July meeting.

[NAHRO Leadership Volunteer Form](#) - The leadership volunteer form for the 2023-2025 biennium deadline was March 31, 2023. If commissioners have not completed the form, please reach out to Regional President and advise of an interest to serve.

Ms. Boss walked through the minutes then asked each subcommittee chair to recap items from the March 21 meeting with regards to Subcommittee goals for the remainder of the 2021-2023 term.

Subcommittee Updates

Advocacy | Renee Smith

Completed

- Letter writing campaign to Congress for additional funding. (will continue into next term)
- Advocacy training module (online); awaiting implementation by professional development dept.
Comment: When launched, Ms. Smith would like the committee to critique/audit the module. (to be scheduled)

In Progress: Encourage others to become a congressional contact and work to cultivate relationships with elected representatives, if not already established.

Not Yet Begun

- Marketing: How to partner with others to push the advocacy message on housing, best practices, etc. from the national /local and regional perspective.
- Create messaging and vet to include the residents’ perspective.
- Ask Tess to break down specific bills a couple of months prior to the August Advocacy month and the Washington Conference.

Communication | Char Reavis

Completed

- Commissioners resource page, accessible to members and non-members including the commissioners at work video. (continue into next term)
- Fine-tuned the Commissioner of the Year award criteria and eligibility info. (continue into next term)

In Progress

- More collaboration with member services: showcase commissioner offerings, provide flyers to promote commissioners’ mentor program.
- Articles about commissioners’ mentors; consider additional website tools beyond the commissioners resource page to be widely used and accessible to everyone. See new JOHCD schedule below (Meeting Materials/Resources section)
- Joint work with DEIAC: continue to collaborate on the Housing America (calendar feature).
- Work with LNAC to create a modified letter template for commissioners for review by the commissioners’ communications subcommittee.

Not Yet Begun

- Forward commissioners' mentors list to regions/chapters and state association presidents regarding commissioners and resources available.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion | Zella Knight

Ongoing

- Working with DEIAC: Ms. Knight will meet at regularly scheduled time with the subcommittee to discuss talking points: elevator pitch, how each agency connects with school boards and other community groups. Discuss at upcoming subcommittee and full committee meetings.

In Progress

- Present pitch during fall conference to non-traditional partners.
- Work with DEIAC continue to collaborate on the Housing America (calendar feature).

JOHCD Article Schedule

Due to declining open and reading rates as well as feedback from our member survey, the frequency of the Journal of Housing and Community Development publication will be reduced. This year, two issues will be published: Spring/Summer in June, and Fall/Winter in December. If commissioners have articles to publish at other times of the year, they can be added to the Commissioners Committee webpage, publicized in Direct News emails, and in the NAHRO Monitor, space permitting. Please feel free to contact Sylvia at sgimenez@nahro.org with any questions.

Spring/Summer - June

- Alanna Conard's article will be published in this issue.

Potential Upcoming Topics:

- Commissioner of the year spotlight and promo for 2023 commissioner of the year application.
- Other articles to be published either in the JOHCD, the NAHRO Monitor or the Direct News emails.
- Discuss with DEI subcommittee
 - DEI
 - FSS graduation
- Discuss with advocacy subcommittee
 - Resident Commissioner spotlight: a day in the life (2) (Char)
 - Commissioner Governance
 - Certification training
- Other
 - Advocacy (pics advocating, meeting with legislators)
 - Housing America

Call for Proposals – NAHRO National Conference – Deadline May 31

The NAHRO National Conference Planning Committee seeks informative and interactive sessions. They encourage innovative proposals, so if you have an idea that doesn't fit into one of session category topics but would be useful to housing and community development professionals, please submit it! Each session proposal should have a session title, session description (no more than 100 words), three learning objectives and identified panelists. All sessions will be 90 minutes long and be scheduled for October 6-7 in New Orleans. **To submit session proposals**, use the [NAHRO's online submission tool](#). Session proposal submissions are limited to three per person.

Potential Proposal Topics: advocacy for housing/community development; climate resiliency; commissioners, community development and redevelopment; community partnerships; cybersecurity; diversity, equity and inclusion; emergency preparedness; Family Self-Sufficiency; finance; homelessness; housing choice vouchers; innovation in housing; international housing and community development; leadership and emerging leaders; marketing and communications; mixed finance; moving to work; public housing; resident services; repositioning; youth engagement and leadership.

For the Commissioners Track, the committee agreed to focus on the objectives of the three subcommittees in the areas of advocacy, communications and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Discussion – Commissioners Track Sessions

[NAHRO Conference Sessions spreadsheet](#)

- Advocacy (Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing): include local, national and election information – Renee.
- Pathways Out of Poverty: Resources to Continuing Education (connect with social determinants of health) –AJ/Renee/Lucille.
- Navigate Through Workplace Violence and Security Options: Learn how commissioners, staff and residents can respond to stay safe –Gary.
- Updating your Resident Services: Char/Lucille
- Funding sources: affordable housing financing/repositioning –Lucille
- Succession Planning: Zella /Lucille
- What is Equity? Follow-up session from Washington Conference- focused on commissioners – Zella

Other suggested topics:

- Legal issues for Commissioners: How to use a Solicitor, panel discussion: How to conduct a Board meeting – Robert’s Rules of Order, etc. Mock board meeting.

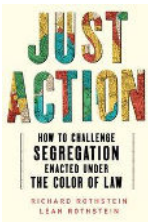
Attendance: Lucille Boss, AJ Jones, Fred Banuelos, Phil Bernal, Dirk Hoek, Richard Laferte, Renee Smith, Gary Valentine, Sam Bergami, Thomas Jefferson, Angela Reed, Brenda Honeycutt, Willie Haynes, Johnny Johnson, Bobby Wilson, DeLois McKinley-Eldridge

Meeting Materials/Resources

- NAHRO Commissioners Survey [Responses](#)
- [Updated committee/subcommittee objectives Progress Report](#)
- Commissioners Mentors (as of [August 20, 2022](#))
- [Zoom Meeting Schedule – Full committee and subcommittees](#)
- Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) Goals & Objectives ([link](#))
- [List of Upcoming Trainings for Commissioners](#)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion literature

Richard Rothstein, and his daughter, Leah Rothstein, co-authored a new book, *Just Action*, to describe what citizens and residents can do in their own communities to redress the inequality and deprivation that are ongoing effects of government-imposed segregation. *Just Action* will be released on June 1 but you can order it now. **Click the image to view and order online.**





2021- 2023 Commissioners Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST

Omni Shoreham Hotel, Diplomat Ballroom, West Lower Level 1B

Staff Liaison: La Tonya Rajah – lrajah@nahro.org

<https://www.nahro.org/about/nahro-leadership/national-standingcommittees/commissioners-committee/>

Lucille Boss, Chair – Presiding

Adrian “AJ” Jones, Vice Chair

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and roll call resulted in a quorum.

Motion: Thomas Jefferson moved and AJ Jones second motion to approve Minutes from 9/21/22, 11/7/2022, 1/10/23 meetings. Motion Carried.

Chair Boss asked the committee vice chair and subcommittee chairs to share what prompted them to serve as a commissioner both on the local level and on the NAHRO national committee.

Commissioners Committee Vice Chair: AJ Jones

As a former housing agency resident with a high school diploma who participated in the FSS program, AJ went on to receive a bachelor’s and master’s degree and purchased her own home. She was asked to join the housing authority board because she was a resident. She joined the board, because as a resident with a high school diploma there was a need to bring first-hand resident issues to the board and to empower other residents. Her major issues of concern both on her local board and as a commissioners committee member are higher education for head of households and primary caregivers and creating balance across the country.

Subcommittee Chair, Communication - Char Reavis

Ms. Reavis serves because she feels residents need a voice and she works to encourage residents to speak up and out and to ensure the resident perspective is represented.

Subcommittee Chair, Advocacy - Renee Smith

Her parents taught her at an early age to serve, to give back, and to provide a voice for the voiceless. Outreach and serving is Ms. Smith’s practical and spiritual gift. Serving on the regional and national NAHRO committees affords the ability to collaborate, to learn about the commissioner and their role, and how they function throughout the country. She also serves as a change agent to erase generational poverty and empower residents to take advantage of the programs available to better their lives.

Commissioners Committee Chair, Lucille Boss

Thanks to the City of Santa Barbara’s housing program, she was able to become a homeowner. Ms. Boss works to ensure everyone else has that opportunity and the community members have the support they need and have their basic needs met.

Commissioners Committee Survey - [Responses](#)

- Received responses re: diversity and equity and inclusion access and justice in the communities and toolkit suggestions.
- Committee re-examined the objectives and next steps each subcommittee wishes to accomplish for the remainder of the 2021-2023 term. See [Updated committee/subcommittee objectives Progress Report](#)

Subcommittee Reports | what each subcommittee wishes to accomplish for the next six months of the 21-23 term

Advocacy | Renee Smith

- Completed, plan to repeat letter writing campaign to Congress for additional funding. (will continue into next term)
- Completed, to be scheduled: Advocacy training module (online); awaiting implementation by professional development dept. When it is launched, Ms. Smith would like the committee to critique/audit the module.
- Advocacy should view advocacy from the local/regional perspective and how to partner with others to push the message on housing, best practices, etc. as well as from the national perspective.
- Work to cultivate relationships with elected representatives if not already established.
- Create messaging and vet to include the resident perspective.

Communication | Char Reavis

- Completed: Commissioners resource page, accessible to members and non-members including the commissioners at work video.
- Not yet begun: Create a flyer to forward to regions/chapters and state association president.
- In progress: More collaboration with member services – showcase commissioner offerings, provide flyers on commissioners' mentors.
- In Progress: Articles on commissioners' mentors; what website tools can be used and accessible to everyone.
- Completed, plan to repeat: Fine-tuned the Commissioner of the Year award criteria and eligibility info.
- Not yet begun: Communicating stories, via the NAHRO Monitor, and other vehicles.
- In progress: Joint work with DEIAC continue to collaborate on the Housing America (calendar feature).

Comment: Work with LNAAC to create a modified letter template for commissioners for review by the communications subcommittee.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion | Zella Knight

- Ongoing: Working with DEIAC: Ms. Knight will meet at a regularly scheduled time with the subcommittee to discuss talking points – elevator pitch, how your agency connects with school boards or other groups. Work on those talking points and be prepared to discuss them at meeting.
- In progress: present pitch during fall conference to non-traditional partners.
- In progress: Joint work with DEIAC continue to collaborate on the Housing America (calendar feature).

Leadership Remarks

President, Patricia Wells – She thanked the committee members for time and service, despite the pandemic: to communities, agency, colleagues and residents. The industry is nimble and working to get results. Commissioners are volunteers to govern, lead and represent your residents.

Senior Vice President, George Guy – Servant leadership is what commissioners do to champion the work done for residents and what programs and policy that advances their lives and community. Question for consideration: How does the committee see and make themselves available to new commissioners?

Chief Executive Officer, Mark Thiele – Request to take advocacy perspective to the Hill and ensure they know what Commissioners are doing and accomplishing with each agency, communities, and the residents we serve.

All leaders applauded the work of the commissioners and the ambitious schedule they undertook to work on objectives.

Questions: Being mindful that budgets and economy are really being stretched at this time, it is difficult for agencies to pay for commissioners, and national commissioner members, to attend conferences. Is there a way to offset that cost?

Answer: CEO Thiele concurs and knows it especially impacts small agencies. He feels there is an opportunity and will explore it, particularly for the small agency resident commissioners.

Questions: Can we coordinate conferences between chapter, regional and national conferences to assist in scheduling and price?

Answer: That is on the radar. NAHRO is working to control and identify communication traffic but also provide timely information.

Note: The Commissioners Committee has a Commissioners Mentors list that can be provided to the First-Time Attendees overview is a handout at the National Conference Exhibition and is on the commissioners' resource page that is accessible to members and non-members.

Update

Legislative Affairs, Tess Hembree

Ms. Hembree advised staff drafts the Legislative and Regulatory Agenda Steering Committee vets it.

Ms. Hembree is pleased many of the committee members will be going to the Hill as that voice is particularly important. She provided information on the Capitol Hill routine with Hill staff, Capitol Hill police checkpoints, and recommended allowing plenty of time to go through security, etc.

She spoke about the appropriations process and opportune time for Commissioners to tell representatives how important funding is for the programs that matter in each community. The House is now controlled by the Republicans, by a narrow margin, and the Democrats control the Senate, and this dynamic will affect their ability to pass the FY 2024 budget.

Comments: Steering Committee should include resident commissioners to ensure the resident perspective is incorporated into the agenda. Ms. Hembree acknowledges those comments and has more resident engagement on her radar as she works to bring on two additional staff into her department.

Survey Results

Comment – How should we move forward understanding we only received 10 responses and the committee had input on how the survey should be configured and what data would be necessary to gather to give us the national baseline? Do we scrap it, reconfigure it, use the data gathered? It was noted that other priorities simply superseded the survey. Questions arose whether to turn in what was completed on the survey or wait until the entire survey was completed or whether more diligence was needed to get staff to get the data requested.

Perhaps the survey's purpose and importance were not made clear to Executive Directors. – that the data collected will assist the national committee and could possibly be used by agencies to improve or begin processes that could provide more information and collaboration among the agency staff, resident, and community.

Tiffany Mangum – Elevate, IEA (EIEA) Subcommittee of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DEIAC) participated in the survey and noted 100 data points in the survey. In collecting some of the data, some agencies may not have the data or the resources to capture the data and complete the survey. Is there an opportunity to determine what our organizations have? Ms. Mangum felt the questions were great and would love to work with the committee to assist in securing the information in a way that can assist some of our agencies and staff.

Suggestion: Suggest to President Wells and CEO Thiele that a portion of conference receptions be dedicated to welcome new commissioners and first-time attendees that allows visibility to commissioners and access to commissioner mentors.

Comments: Resident Commissioners are no different than any other commissioner and are extremely important resources to tap into regarding the resident’s perspective, concerns and suggestions. Should a resident commissioner wish not to be identified as such, make that point known to your agency. Perhaps the committee can create a model for others to utilize so that everyone can tap into that expertise and knowledge that a commissioner who is a resident has.

The Executive Director reports to the Board. If there is something is requested or required, the board has the authority to ask for it and, if feasible, to get.

Commissioners Communication

[NAHRO Leadership Volunteer Form](#) - It is time to complete the leadership volunteer form for the 2023-2025 biennium. **DEADLINE is March 31, 2023**

Regional Reports – Upcoming Conferences

NERC - Sam Bergami/Nikki Vazquez –Conference- June 25-28, Portland, ME – Rhode Island training with 16 commissioners trained.

MARC – Dorothy Carty Daniel – Conference – May 8-10, Wilmington, DE

NCRC - Joe Grisson – Conference – April 18-21– La Crosse, WI

SERC - Carleen Cumberbatch -Conference – June 26-28 – Orlando,

FL **SWRC – Willie Haynes** - Conference, June 27-29, Albuquerque,

NM **PNRC – Char Reavis** – Conference – April 24-26, Portland, OR

PSWRC -Lucille Boss- Conference- May 22-25, Anaheim, CA

MPRC- Phil Bernal – Conference - April 26-27, St. George, UT

Adjourn

Meeting Materials/Resources

- [NAHRO Commissioners Survey Responses](#)
- [Updated committee/subcommittee objectives Progress Report](#)
- Commissioners Mentors (as of [August 20, 2022](#))
- Commissioners Committee Survey [flyer](#)
- **New JOHCD schedule** - twice-yearly. The first issue -July, second in December. [Article deadline](#): mid-June and mid-November respectively.
- **NAHRO survey results – commissioner- related excerpts (handout)**
- *Available online only:*
 - Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) Goals & Objectives ([link](#))
 - JOHCD Articles - [Race, Equity and Housing: NAHRO’s Response](#)
[Bringing Equity and Inclusion into the Heart of NAHRO: the LGBTQ+ Subcommittee](#)
 - [List of Upcoming Trainings for Commissioners](#)

Attendance

Chair: Lucille Boss

Vice Chair: Adrian "AJ" Jones

NERC: Sam Bergami, Nikki Vazquez

MARC: Fred Banuelos, Dorothy Carty Daniel, Angela Reed

NCRC: Joe, Grisson, Renee Smith

SERC: Carleen Cumberbatch

SWRC: Gary Allsup, Willie

Haynes

PNRC: George Perez, Char Reavis, Joycelynn Straight

PSWRC: Zella Knight

MPRC: Phil Bernal, Thomas Jefferson

Guests: Tiffany Mangum, Jake

Joseph Absent:

NERC: Richard Conforti, Neil Flynn

MARC: John Benton, Richard Laferte, Bobby Wilson

NCRC: Alanna Conard, Grant Henry, Delois McKinley Eldridge, Gary Valentine

SERC: Brenda Honeycutt, Johnny Johnson

SWRC: Susan Ulrich

PSWRC: Homer Hall, Gregory Hartwig, Dirk

Hoek MPRC: Barb Cleland, Cody Schuler

COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE 2019-2021 TRANSITION REPORT



Commissioners Committee Mission

- serve to broaden the constituency supporting NAHRO's goals and objectives;
- support programs to expand the skills of commissioners to effectively discharge their responsibilities; and
- work with staff, leadership and membership at all levels of the Association in fulfillment of these purposes.

Commissioners Committee Vision

- **advocate** for programs, program policy and necessary resources to address local housing needs in their respective communities;
- be **effective spokespersons** for responsible public policy impacting upon housing and community development concerns at the national level; and
- **empower** Commissioners to become housing and community development "Ambassadors" in their communities and wherever possible at the state and national level. Committee members support a wide range of meaningful advocacy opportunities and encourage their colleagues to make a case for viable and sustainable communities to the general public, governmental agencies, elected representatives at all levels of government and the media.

President Shaw's focus points for the 2019-2021 term

People- focus on the relationship between the three levels of NAHRO: state, regional, and national.

Purpose – strengthen advocacy, developing and expanding partnerships, and professional development.

Passion. What you do matters, unwavering commitment to this work.

As this term began, we were hit with the COVID-19 pandemic which made us think out of the box for solutions to address the needs of our residents, communities and families. This period became and continues to be a lesson in national and global preparedness as we work through the pandemic of 2019. With this focus in mind, the committee incorporated President Shaw's focus points, along with NAHRO goals A and E to craft the committee's objectives for this term:

Committee's Goals/Objectives

Goal A - Maintain NAHRO's position as the preeminent organization for the development and implementation of responsible housing and community development policy by vigorously advocating for legislation, regulations, core programs and innovative initiatives.

Obj. 1. Work with Legislative Network Advisory Committee (LNAC) to actively engage in all letter writing campaigns.

- July 2020- Action call: participated in goal to send 2000 letters to Congress and the White House asking for H/CD programs in the next COVID-19 emergency legislation. by (completed: exceeded 2000 letters sent).
- August 2020 – participated in goal of 8501 letters to congress during August Advocacy Campaign. (Completed: exceeded goal -approximately 13,000 letters sent).
- December 2020. - Continue to answer call for advocacy letter writing
- August 2021 – Advocacy campaign goal 12,501. Goal exceeded - over 43,000!

Goal E – Strengthen NAHRO as a thought-leader by improving communication, networking, information exchange, and knowledge transfer with and among members, partners and stakeholders, and by enhancing the experience of members and next-generation professionals.

- June 2020 – uploaded “Commissioners at Work” - a compilation of activities at the 2019 National Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio, TX- for the NAHRO website Commissioners Resource page.
- August 2020 - Collaborated with IRGE Chair, Alan Zais to provide insight on diversity, equity and inclusion best practices.
- October 2020 – Collaborated with DEIAC Chair, Liz Glenn to provide insight on diversity, equity and inclusion best practices.
- Nov/Dec. 2020, JOHCD article - Commissioners Corner: Mitigating Fire Damage
- February 2021 – Speakers from Rapid Results Institute and C4 Innovations provided information on a 100-day challenge to galvanize and target diversity, equity and inclusion efforts with regards to homelessness.
- June 2021 - Self-care Policy Framework Focus - Social Determinants of Health - Health and Healthcare. Self-care guest speaker: Soni Myers, LCPC, NCC Disability Services Coordinator/Counselor, Idaho State University, Meridian Idaho Campus spoke to the committee on being mindful of our own health, mindfulness and compassion and how to decompress and rejuvenate our reserves to continue to help others and ourselves.
- July/August 2021, JOHCD article – Commissioners Corner: The Basics of Being a Housing Agency Commissioner
- September 2021- Knowledge exchange – Alaska. Carl Richie, NAHRO Past President; Patricia Wells, NAHRO Senior Vice President; and Griffin Hagel, Executive Director, Tagiugmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority, Utqiagvik, Alaska briefed the committee on their experience regarding Alaska housing.

Obj. 1. - Work with regions to ensure nominees for Commissioner of the Year Award.

- 2020 - Chair encouraged regional service officers to submit worthy candidates for the Commissioner of the Year award and to enter their regional recipients for the national award. Currently have two nominations.
- Reminder of award deadline and Commissioner of the Year award article published in the [June 15 NAHRO Monitor](#), July 31 award name update, August 15, August 31, September 15 deadline extended to October 8.
- July 2020 – reminder sent to Regional VP-Commissioners to encourage regional nominations and to nominate regional commissioner award recipients for national recognition.
- October 2020 - selected Commissioners of the Year recipient. 3 candidates.
- July 2021 eight nominees for the Commissioners of the Year award. Jury evaluated, selected and recognized during the 2021 Online National Conference and Exhibition in October.

Obj. 2 –Create substantive, relevant topics and sessions for the national conference track and possibly for sessions under different tracks.

- 2020 - A list of session topics has been compiled and commissioners' track group will resume work when warranted.
- March 2021 - 2021 National Conference call for proposals - submitted sessions.
- July 2021- one session proposal submitted by committee members was approved for 2021 National Conference.

Alternate Obj. 2: Due to the pandemic, work refocused encouraging board members and agencies to submit material for the #HousersAtWork Campaign to showcase the agency, commissioner and community work done during COVID-19 pandemic.

- March 2021 - Encourage testimonials by all committee members regarding value in NAHRO membership

1. **What are the most valuable aspects of your NAHRO membership?.**
2. **Why would you recommend joining NAHRO to a colleague?**

Goal F. Advance diversity, equity, and inclusion as crucial to healthy communities.

April - July 2021- committee member testimonials have been submitted

Obj 1: Discuss efforts that engage our agencies, residents and community to encourage diversity, equity and inclusiveness.

- August 2020 – Collaborated with IRGE Committee chair, Alan Zais addressed the committee on ways to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in housing authorities and communities.

- **Ongoing Discussion:** In 2020, efforts to focus attention on: empowerment, encourage our residents and community to complete the census form and to vote, attend workshops focused on government, the importance of the vote, electoral college, local activism, law enforcement, etc.

Empowerment - My Brother's Keeper Alliance, launched by Former President Obama. This program addresses gaps faced by boys and young men of color and focuses on building safe and supportive communities where they feel valued and have clear pathways to opportunity.

Scholarships – An annual scholarship program in Georgia garnered 16 applicants, despite COVID-19. Approximately 90% of the tenants are African American. Jurors will judge and \$2,500 will be awarded.

Law Enforcement- Several members worked task forces, to address police reform by crafting a set of recommendations for their respective cities to adopt.

Voter Registration- In Georgia, get drop boxes positioned on housing authority properties for residents who are 60 and older, who occupy a unit and who do not have transportation to get to polling sites. They are awaiting confirmation on that request at this time. If approved, drop box security issues will be handled by voting officials with cameras, etc.

- October 2020 - Collaborated with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Chair, Liz Glenn to provide insight on diversity, equity and inclusion-best practices.
- February 2021 - Speakers from Rapid Results Institute and C4 Innovations spoke about DEI 100-day challenges to inspire goal setting, levels of innovation, collaboration and execution required to achieve goal.
- June 2021 - Self-care Policy Framework Focus- Social Determinants of Health - Health and Healthcare Self-care guest speaker: Soni Myers, LCPC, NCC Disability Services Coordinator/Counselor, Idaho State University, Meridian Idaho Campus spoke to the committee on being mindful of our own health, mindfulness and compassion and how to decompress and rejuvenate our reserves to continue to help others and ourselves.

FINAL COMMENTS