



2023-2025 – Commissioners’ Committee Minutes
January 22, 2024 , 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting - D R A F T

Presiding: Renee Smith – Chair

Renee Smith, Chair, welcomed the committee and roll was called which did not result in a quorum.

Briefing - Strategic Planning Leadership Retreat- Atlanta, GA, December 6-8, 2023

Chair Smith and Fred Banuelos attended the 3-day retreat which included guest speakers and workshop interaction with retreat participants. During the retreat, nine groups were formed to focus on NAHRO’s core values: Knowledge, Leadership, Professionalism, Collaboration, Equality, Fairness, Opportunity, Sustainability, Innovation. These groups will continue to work on fine-tuning the mission statement, which may be completed in a few weeks, and then on the completion of the 5-year strategic plan package targeted for presentation to the committees during the 2024 Washington Conference in April. (**Retreat Summary attached**)

Remarks

Both President George Guy and Senior Vice President Sean Gilbert thanked the committee members for their commitment to NAHRO and the communities you serve. They also applauded the work begun by the leadership during the strategic planning retreat and thanked Chair Smith for moving the strategic plan discussion to the committee.

Committee Overview

Chair Smith advised the committee’s focus will be on collaboration, intention, and collective impact to craft the committee’s the five-year NAHRO strategic plan.

Chair Smith would like veteran members, who have previously served on the committee, to mentor new committee members and serve as primary lead for each of the three subcommittees and the new members to assume the secondary lead roles, if possible.

Committee Champions

To encourage additional support and participation in committee related work, Chair Smith would like to establish committee champions. Two champions a quarter, from any region. A champion will meet at least two of the criteria below:

- Attend a state or regional conference and report back to the commissioners committee.
- regional vice presidents can provide updates to the regional conference on national commissioners committee activity
- Serve as a committee liaison* to legislative network, diversity equity and inclusion, or professional development; for both virtual and in-person meetings if possible).
- Get a legislative contact within a quarter.
- Attend a local housing authority sponsored event and submit that activity to La Tonya to showcase on the NAHRO commissioners’ resource page.
- Become a National Certified Commissioner (NCC).
- Moderate or serve as a panelist in a National Conference commissioner track- session.

*Committee liaisons visit other standing and advisory committees during breakout portion of the in-person meeting, when available. When committee reconvenes, advise provide highlights of what was discussed/ learned from other standing committees.

Advisory committees typically meet after the standing committee: Legislative Network, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, so those who wish to serve as committee liaisons can provide a report during the next full committee meeting.

Commissioner Corners E-learning – Free opportunity for members.

Join Chair Renee Smith for an informal session to learn from your peers and share your commissioner experience with others. Renee will present various situations that a commissioner may face and together, participants will work with their peers to brainstorm how to handle the situation. Sessions will occur once per quarter. **Next session: April 23, 1:00-2:30 p.m., ET**

NAHRO Website Corner

Committee members were shown how to navigate through the commissioners' directory after login from My Account, meeting and correspondence information, and review of certification information.

Meeting Recap:

- View the attached subcommittee description and advise La Tonya Rajah of your subcommittee preference and/or if you are interested in being on the Commissioners Mentors list. The Mentors list will be distributed at conferences and the National Conference Commissioners Booth.
- Consider being a committee champion!
- Estimated completion of the full strategic plan– Washington Conference. In the meantime, discussion of committee tasks and topics and recurring meeting schedule will be established after subcommittee members are established and a primary and secondary leads are selected– tentatively scheduled for February.

•

Update (post-meeting)

- Request to have certification list alphabetized for convenient reading. Message forwarded to Certification Manager and acknowledged. Will advise when implemented. For additional questions, please contact [Lelia Vetter, Certification Manager](#).
- Summer Symposium - Chicago, IL, July 10-12.

Adjourn

NEXT FULL COMMITTEE MEETING: March 4, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., ET

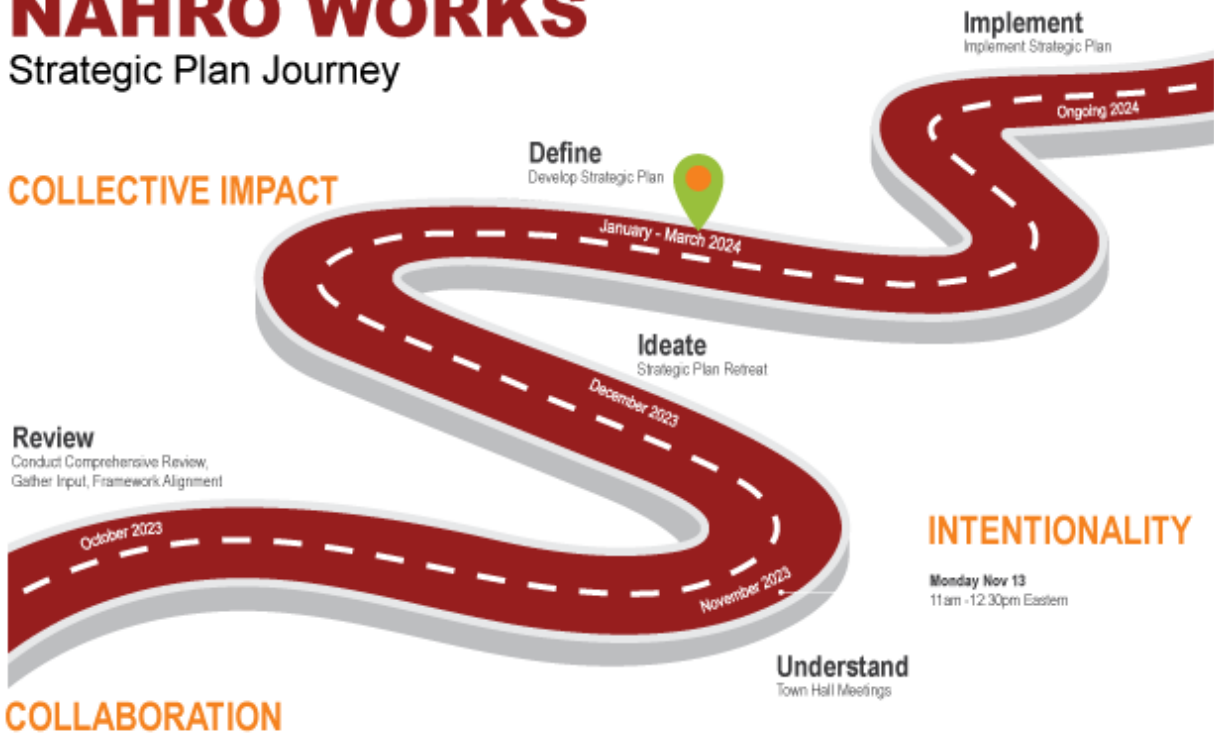
Attendance: Renee Smith, Fred Banuelos
NERC – Sam Bergami, Jake Joseph, Skye Kessler
MARC – Angela Reed
NCRC – Joe Grisson, Delois McKinley-Eldridge
SERC – Fermika Smith, Anthony Sawyer
SWRC – Gary Allsup, Carol Branham, Willie Haynes, Emmett Robbins
PSWRC – Zella Knight
PNRC – Jan Murphy
MPRC – Joycelynn Straight, Phil Bernal, Lizette Mill
Ex officio -Carl Richie

**2023 NAHRO Works
Leadership Retreat Summary
Collaboration -- Intentionality -- Collective Impact
Dec. 7-9 – Atlanta, GA**

At the swearing-in of the 2023-2025 officers during the 2023 National Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans (Oct. 6-8), President George Guy challenged the leadership to transform the association’s two-year strategic plan into a more robust and ambitious five-year plan. President Guy and the team outlined the NAHRO Works strategic plan journey, coupled with the three leadership themes of intentionality, collaboration, and collective impact.

NAHRO WORKS

Strategic Plan Journey



The first step in this process was to seek input from the NAHRO Board of Governors and all members who serve on leadership committees about the current strategic plan’s goals, their alignment with NAHRO’s mission, and how to position NAHRO for success over the next five years. To gather this data from the leadership, Jennifer Keogh, Chair of NAHRO’s Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, hosted four virtual town halls and surveyed members. Data from the town halls and survey was collected and provided to attendees of the in-person leadership retreat, which took place on Dec. 7-9 in Atlanta, Ga.

Past President Sunny Shaw kicked off the retreat with a *leadership rumble*, where members shared their leadership journey.

Staff from Atlanta Housing gave a tour of one of their agency's amazing communities. The tour showcased mixed-income rental housing that utilized a variety of funding sources--including Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant funding, Moving to Work (MTW) funding, and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The properties also included other funding streams, and the development was a collaborative effort of federal, local, and private sector efforts. The tour highlighted beautiful units, a gym, a library, and several community spaces. To say that the tour was inspiring is an understatement.

Guest speakers included David Lipsetz and Jonathan Harwitz (Housing Assistance Council), who addressed small agency and rural issues; Angela Brooks and Deirdre Bolden (Corporation for Supportive Housing) and Sarah Hilton (Atlanta Housing), who addressed the challenges of homelessness with a service prevention focus; and Major Galloway (Everett Housing) and Damon Duncan (Clesia Ventures), who discussed the opportunity to connect with Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Nearly 100 retreat participants examined the current mission statement and goals and proposed new mission statements and goals that focus on collaboration, intentionality, and collective impact. In keeping with the three core process objectives, the retreat participants were split up into teams by table. Each table, collectively, collaboratively and with intentionality examined and offered their thoughts regarding the mission language, goals, and objectives. President Guy and the team intend for this process to continue and evolve.

Where we are now: Retreat attendees will review three draft mission statements that reflect discussions at the Retreat and then reach consensus on a new NAHRO mission statement, which will be submitted to the NAHRO Board of Governors for consideration.

2023-2025 COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES WITH TASK DESCRIPTIONS

As of February 1, 2024

Committee goals and objectives, as directed by the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Governors, will be reviewed by the committee, and targeted for action by the appropriate subcommittee.

ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE

Will work at Commissioner’s Mentor’s booth at the National Conference, advise new and veteran commissioners how to access/navigate the Advocacy Action Center online and via the app - NAHRO Advocacy, conference app; encourage agencies to send advocacy letters to our legislators through the Advocacy Action Center at designated times. Partner with Legislative Network on other ways to enhance advocacy efforts.

Commissioners Track submissions – submit sessions for the National conference commissioners track during the call for proposals period. Whether reviewing proposals or submitting them, group members will ensure timely, relevant sessions are represented in the Commissioners session track that will benefit all levels of commissioner experience with a focus on advocacy, communication, professional development, and adult literacy. Professional Development include commissioner-related sessions, certifications.

ADVOCACY	
CHAIR	
MEMBERS	

COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Communications members will draft and/or provide article topics for the *Journal of Housing and Community Development* magazine. Assist in revamping the commissioner’s research page; Identify and recommend ways to communicate more effectively who NAHRO is and what NAHRO represents to our peers throughout the country, when applicable, encourage NAHRO membership, showcase Commissioners’ Handbook at the National Conference Commissioners Booth and the First-Time Attendees meeting; and create/implement communications plan. **Commissioner of the Year Group** - members will encourage regions to submit regional commissioner award nominees for the national commissioner award consideration and judge and select yearly award recipient.

COMMUNICATIONS	
CHAIR	
MEMBERS	

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION SUBCOMMITTEE

This group will help to implement the approved the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy Framework, that guides NAHRO’s advocacy and member education. Each NAHRO Standing and Advisory Committee is charged with making recommendations for further action, within its designated policy areas, that advance this framework.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION	
CHAIR:	
MEMBERS	



COMMISSIONER MENTORS LIST - February 1, 2024

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL (NERC) CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT		
Sam Bergami	Milford, CT	milfdelec@aol.com
Jake Joseph	Milford, CT	Jakemiles.joseph@gmail.com
MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL (MARC) DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VIRGIN ISLANDS		
Dorothy Carty Daniel	Perth Amboy, NJ	732-442-4875
Fred Bañuelos	Allentown, PA	Fredjb@rcn.com
Angela Reed	Johnstown, PA	Angelareed89@gmail.com
MOUNTAIN PLAINS REGIONAL COUNCIL (MPRC) CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY		
Philip Bernal	Salt Lake City, UT	tito2bernal@hotmail.com
Thomas Jefferson	Fargo, ND	Thomas.jefferson.cqzk@statefarm.com
NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL (NCRC) IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, NE, OH, WI		
Joe Grisson	Aurora, IL	joegrison@auroraha.org
Renee Smith	Ypsilanti, MI	Rsmith@ypsilantihc.org
Gary Valentine	Greenville, MI	gvalentine@greenvillehousing.org
SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL (SERC) AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, TN, SC, VA, WV		
Carleen Cumberbatch	DeKalb County, GA	carleencumb@gmail.com
Johnny Johnson	Columbus, MS	Jbj.aphia@yahoo.com
Henrietta Snipes	Opelika, AL	hsnipes@opelikaha.org
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL (SWRC) AR, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX		
Gary Allsup	Corpus Christi, TX	Gary.allsup@hacc.org
Willie Haynes	Washington, LA	wch5123@yahoo.com
Susan Ulrich	Cache, OK	ulrichsusan@gmail.com
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSWRC) AZ, CA, NV		
Adrian Jones	Fresno, CA	ajones@fresnohousing.org
Dirk Hoek	Modesto, CA	Opadirka@aol.com
Zella Knight	Sun Valley, CA	zk8ed@yahoo.com
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL (PNRC) AK, ID, OR, WA		
George Perez	Everett, WA	gandgperez@frontier.com
Joycelynn Straight	Spokane, WA	jsbusbills@yahoo.com

