Chair’s Remarks
Introduced and welcomed Sylvia Bowen (sbowen@nahro.org), who is serving as temporary committee liaison, in permanent liaison Tamarha Walker’s absence, until mid-April.

Items for March Committee Meeting
Liz suggested the items below for the committee’s March meeting:

Standing Committee Liaisons to IRGE: Liaisons will be responsible for advising IRGE of their committees’ research needs and be the point of contact for maintaining on-going communications with IRGE. Committee vice chair Julie Brewen volunteered to serve as liaison for the Professional Development Committee.

Study Exchanges: Discuss whether the three exchanges announced during the Jan. 9 teleconference are feasible and if so, how to move forward. (Please see attached survey results). Netherlands is slated for July/August. CHRA may present challenges due to timing. The event is scheduled April 28-May 1 in Winnipeg, Canada. For details, visit http://chra-hru.ca/en/index.php/congress/home/. The deadline for making hotel reservations is April 4. Winnipeg, said Liz, is an intriguing city and different from the traditional Canadian city. Claude Roy shared that NAHRO President Preston Prince has confirmed his attendance at the conference; CHRA would be pleased to have IRGE members attend as well.

Habitat III
Liz and Saul are NAHRO’s official representatives for Habitat III. In addition to having a seat on the U.S. National Committee, we recently received confirmation of seats on two subcommittees: Connecting the U.S. to Global Conversations and Education and Outreach. The Education and Outreach Subcommittee will hold its first meeting on Feb. 20 in Washington, DC.

At the March meeting, we should start dialogue regarding how to engage NAHRO members in Habitat III. IRGE will lead NAHRO’s efforts. Liz has suggested the formation of an ad hoc group comprised of IRGE and non-IRGE members, past NAHRO presidents and others who have a real passion for involvement in Habitat and a strong desire to help engage NAHRO’s membership in the process.

Mary Paumen, Tara Clifford and Liz had a very interesting time at Habitat II and would be willing to share their experiences, which should be useful as we plan our engagement efforts. Additionally, Don Edwards, who lead the US’s massive civic engagement process for Habitat II, would be a good person with whom to have a conversation about his efforts to organize the national engagement, the presence of the network and how it interacted both with domestic and global partners at the conference. He would be a great speaker at IRGE’s March meeting or at the Brown Bag lunch Monday, March 16 at 12:15 p.m. Liz will reach out to him on behalf of IRGE.

In response to query regarding the ability of others to be engaged in subcommittee meetings via Skype, Liz promised to inquire at the subcommittee meeting on Feb. 20.
Reports

South Africa: John Papagni
Many will recall that the Maryland Secretary of State John McDonough addressed the NAHRO Board of Governors at its meeting in Baltimore. As a follow-up, the Secretary invited NAHRO to the Sister state MOU signing ceremony held in Baltimore last month. Saul and Liz attended.

Lawrence Ramashamole, Chief Executive Officer, The Housing Association East London, contacted John about the possibility of organizing a professional development exchange between PHAs in Maryland and South Africa. Liz had a conversation with Saul regarding an email that Lawrence sent to him. According to Lawrence, he has been mandated by the Deputy Minister of Human Settlements in South Africa to engage with NAHRO in exploring the possibility of establishing a professional body in South Africa, along the lines of NAHRO. Lawrence will be in attendance at the Washington Conference and Saul will arrange a meeting with some in the NAHRO leadership to meet with Lawrence to brainstorm how to move forward.

South Africa: Lloyd Halverson/Saeed Hajarizadeh
Vancouver and Seattle Housing Authorities will host a study exchange and collaboration for the board chair and staff of the Steve Tshwete Housing Association. The agency’s CEO Ntuli attended our conference in Baltimore.

Partnership Subcommittee: Kerron Barnes
INTA hosted “Live in a Living City” congress a couple of weeks ago. Kerron was able to join several sessions via live web streaming. The event focused on smart/sustainable cities. INTA will make videos of the event as soon as copyright issues are resolved. If available prior to IRGE’s next meeting, we could feature one or two short of the videos at our March meeting i.e., Christer Larsson, Director of Urban Development, City of Malmo (Sweden). Mr. Larsson participated at the NAHRO-INTA summit in Cleveland.

Kerron suggested that we consider having guests participate in IRGE meetings via Skype and cited Larsson, INTA’s Secretary General Michel Sudarskis and someone from Argentina as possible guests. Liz shared that Sylvia is exploring costs to have Skype capability at the March meeting. Julie commented on the need to identify topics and speakers. Liz said that we should be strategic in our approach. Additionally, Liz said if Skype capability will not work for the March meeting, perhaps in Austin where we could engage Mr. Sudarskis in conversations about Habitat III.

Australia outreach continues. Kerron is preparing an article about public housing innovations and challenges for the Australian publication Housing Works Journal (HWJ). NAHRO will have electronic access to HWJ in exchange to making the JOHCD available electronically to HWJ readers.
Communications Subcommittee: Alan Zais
Alan was unable to join the call and provided a brief written report. “Julie and I have reviewed some thoughts regarding the display and are looking to carefully compose a display that will be applicable to reflect the many programs and may conference for which it may be used over a number of years. Subcommittee member Gary Keller will be developing business card formats for review. I’ll be composing an updated PPT. My intention is to have a draft within the next four weeks. The material from Tara is great! But we’ll be giving archiving more attention after the display and PPT are complete. We plan an IRGE E-blast highlighting the IRGE lunch program at the legislative conference, “planning your conference!” I’ll be in touch with Sylvia about how we can also tweet our news.”

Teleconference Participants: Chair: Liz Glenn, Vice Chair: Julie Brewen. Kerron Barnes, Claude Roy, Don Bibb, Tara Balfe Clifford, John Papagni, Ron Clewer, Gary Keller, Branna Lindell, David Baldwin, Evette Hester, Matt Gawrick for Miguell Del Campillo, Dan Trozzi, Saeed Hajarizadeh, Lloyd Halverson, Stella Madrid. NAHRO Staff: Sylvia Bowen

Next meeting: Saturday, March 14: 9:45 am. To 5:00 p.m.