



MINUTES - BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
Sunday, March 26, 2017 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel – Arlington, VA
Salon I, II – Arlington Ballroom – First Floor

President Steve Merritt called the meeting to order. LaTonya Rajah called the roll; a quorum was established. President Merritt acknowledged and welcomed guests, NAHRO staff and the newest BOG member, Saeed Hajarizadeh, the new PNRC SVP. Mr. Merritt opened the associates comment period. There was none. He then called on special guests to address the Board.

Bryan Duncan, Board Chair-Community Action Partnership/Executive Director,-I-Care, Inc., Statesville, N.C., and **Denise Harlow**, Chief Executive Officer, Community Action Partnership (CAP), Washington, D.C. The Community Action Partnership is a membership organization serving more than 1,000 agencies across the country. They would like to expand the partnership that is already under way with NAHRO staff via NAHRO chapters and regions. The dialogue begun with staff is to determine how to strategically work together to nurture and cultivate this relationship. Local ties have been made with community action agencies throughout the country to fight the cause and conditions of poverty, which they would like to mirror that relationship on a national level. The survey results will target global best practices and glean insights into areas of collaboration by CAPS and PHAs across the country.

Moises Loza, Executive Director, Housing Assistance Council, (HAC) Washington, D.C. John Bohm joined President Merritt in presenting Mr. Loza a plaque in honor of his retirement from the industry. Under his leadership (almost three decades), HAC has been able to successfully fund affordable housing, inform sound policy on rural housing programs, build capacity for local housing providers and become the nation's foremost source of information on rural housing. Mr. Loza responded he was humbled and honored to receive recognition from NAHRO, an institution that has done so much to improve people's housing and lives.

President Merritt called for approval of minutes and ratification of action taken by the Steering Committee on behalf of the Board of Governors:

Approval of Minutes: October 15, 2016, Board and Annual Business Meeting

Ratification of Action taken by Steering Committee:

1. **November 28:** Authorized NAHRO to enter into contract with JDG Associates to perform the CEO Search for NAHRO
2. **January 11:** Approved San Francisco as the site for the 2018 Summer Conference: July 27-29
Approved Atlanta as the site for the 2018 National Conference: October 25-27
3. **March 1:** Approved the 2017 Legislative and Regulatory Agenda
4. **March 23:** Approved the addition of Sunny Shaw to the CEO Search Committee

ACTION: Motion by Dianne Hovdestad, second by Larry Williams to approve the October 15, 2016 minutes and ratification of action taken by the Steering Committee from November 28, 2016 through March 23, 2017 on behalf of the Board of Governors. MOTION CARRIED.

FINAL AGENDA REVIEW/APPROVAL

President Merritt asked if any Board member wished to move any items from the Consent Agenda to the Discussion Agenda. These resolutions were cited: Spot-on Advocacy, conference site selection process and the NAHRO National Merit Scholarship Program administered by Housing America Task Force. President Merritt then called for approval of the agenda as amended.

ACTION: Motion by Shaunte Evans, second by Regina Mitchell to approve amended Agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Support for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Background:

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) was created by Congress in the Steward B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. USICH is an independent agency within the executive branch tasked with the goal of coordinating the federal response to homelessness. USICH fosters national partnerships between all levels of government and the private sector and since its creation, the body has grown to include 19 Cabinet secretaries and agency heads. In 2010, USICH published Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, which set goals for ending homelessness in America, as its first goal, the end of veteran homelessness, and laid out best practices and policy priorities to achieve it.

The Council has helped to reduce both homelessness and veteran homelessness. Increased collaboration amongst federal agencies and tools (such as HUD-VASH) provided by Congress have helped to make this possible. USICH was last authorized by Public Law 113-325 and will sunset at the end of Fiscal Year 2017. USICH has played a very positive role in the reduction of homelessness and making the council permanent would continue this positive trend.

Resolution: Be it resolved, NAHRO supports a long term or permanent authorization and funding for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

INTERNATIONAL RESESEARCH AND GLOBAL EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

NAHRO-IRGE Delegation for Study Exchange in Sydney, Australia.

Resolution: WHEREAS, A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that set forth the terms and understanding between the Australasian Housing Institute (AHI), and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) has been established, and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the MOU is to formalize the goal of the AHI and NAHRO to build a mutually beneficial collaboration and through this collaboration, there is an aim to promote opportunities and new ideas by sharing information and opening events, publications and professional development opportunities to each other's membership, and

WHEREAS, an invitation has been extended by AHI to host a NAHRO-IRGE Delegation for a Study Exchange in Sydney, Australia, and other surrounding areas in close proximity in conjunction with attending the AHURI National Housing Conference from November 29 to December 1, 2017, and

WHEREAS, IRGE has a goal to support research into matters of interest and value to other standing committees of NAHRO.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NAHRO supports formation of a NAHRO-IRGE Delegation for a Study Exchange in Sydney, Australia, and other surrounding areas in 2017.

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Amendments to the Southwest Regional Council (SWRC) Bylaws

The SWRC proposes the following addition and change to its bylaws:

Section 10. Vacancies of members of SWRC who serve on the boards of the SWRC Retirement or Hospitalization plans shall be filled by the President of SWRC. When a vacancy occurs, the SWRC President shall contact each SWRC state President and ask for nominations from the state. All nominees are required to be active participating members of SWRC NAHRO and members of the Retirement or Hospitalization plan for which they are being nominated. Nominees must also meet the requirements of the hospitalization or retirement program of which they are being nominated. Appointed members will be required to attend all SWRC board meetings and conferences. The President will make a selection from the nominees submitted. This appointment will be voted on at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 11. There shall be a Steering Committee of the Executive Committee consisting of the elective officers of SWRC [Regional President, Senior Vice-President, Vice Presidents with portfolio, Secretary and Treasurer], and the President of each chartered NAHRO Chapter within the Region. The Steering Committee shall be chaired by the Regional President and shall be empowered to act for and on behalf of the Executive Committee between meetings, and shall be available for consultation as needed.

2019 Summer Conference

Background: The conference division has submitted several sites for the Member Services Committee to consider for the 2019 Summer Conference New York, Boston and Providence. Because Providence would require the use of a convention center and several hotels, the conference director suggested it not be considered. New York, although a great location, its food and beverage minimum would equal to the same amount of money that NAHRO normally spends on a National Conference that is twice as large; there New York should not be considered. It then came down to the three properties in Boston. All properties offer similar packages; however, since the Boston Park Plaza is a newly renovated space, has a more flexible meeting room layout, and NAHRO would be the only group in house, it was recommended as the site of the 2019 Summer Conference.

Resolution: The Member Services Committee moves the acceptance of the conference division's recommendation to hold the 2019 Summer Conference in Boston, MA at the Boston Park Plaza.

Emerging Leaders Application

Background: The Emerging Leaders are a self-identified, diverse group of professionals who are interested in advancement in the housing and community development field. The Emerging Leader Subcommittee created an Emerging Leaders Award in 2009, which was approved by the BOG, to recognize someone who was emerging as a leader at the national level. The subcommittee would like to change the focus of the award so that it nationally recognizes someone who is emerging as a leader through the chapter and regional levels instead. Major changes to the award include the number of years involved with NAHRO at all three levels and more emphasis will be placed on the candidate's participation at the regional, chapter and local levels instead of solely at the national level, as currently being done.

Resolution: The Member Services Committee moves the acceptance of the change in intent of the Emerging Leaders Award and the revised application and scoring process.

**Action: Motion by Shaunte Evans; second by Regina Mitchell approval of all items on the Consent Agenda as presented.
MOTION CARRIED.**

DISCUSSION AGENDA

BOARD OF ETHICS AND CREDENTIALING TRUSTEES

Summary of proposed revisions to the NAHRO Code of Professional Conduct Rules of Procedure 3/25/2017): The existing Rules of Procedure and proposed changes were submitted with the BOG's preliminary agenda.

The NAHRO Board of Ethics and Credentialing Trustees (BECT), on 3/25/2017 approved revisions to the NAHRO Code of Professional Conduct (CPC) Rules of Procedure and submits the following Rules for the NAHRO Board of Governors consideration and approval.

1. The NAHRO Board of Ethics and Credentialing Trustees (BECT) modified the rules several times over the past few years to address issues preventing the BECT from acting on alleged violations of the CPC. Rules were approved by the Board of Governors that allowed the BECT to initiate a process to issue sanctions for violations of the CPC for instances in which a court, HUD or other governmental entity had completed due process and a guilty verdict, plea or determination was made and all appeals completed. This version compiles those previously approved changes in a streamlined version.
2. Order of the document was revised to provide easier to understand rules with order of articles revised.
3. Multiple processes were combined, and appeals processes strictly defined.
4. Additional definition regarding reinstatement procedures to allow those persons sanctioned to apply for reinstatement.
5. ADDED SINCE INITIAL DISTRIBUTION: Language revised in Article 4.3 to address eligibility for reinstatement or sanction to be permanent.
6. END OF ARTICLE 7 CHANGED TO: "Records of each case shall be retained by the BECT for indefinite period after closing the case without appeal or the approval by the Board of Governors of any termination of NAHRO membership or the final disposition of a case on appeal, whichever occurs last."

ACTION: Motion by Sharon Carlson, second by Matt Pike to approve the proposed changes to the NAHRO Code of Professional Conduct Rules of Procedure. MOTION CARRIED.

Summary of (note not comprehensive) proposed revisions to the NAHRO Board of Ethics and Credentialing Trustees (BECT) By-Laws. The existing Bylaws and proposed changes were submitted with the BOG's preliminary agenda.

The NAHRO Board of Ethics and Credentialing Trustees (BECT), on 3/25/2017 approved revisions in order to strengthen its By-Laws to be able to properly administer accredited certification programs, submits the following By-Laws for the NAHRO Board of Governors consideration and approval.

1. NAHRO is seeking third party accreditation of NAHRO Certification Programs. As such the certification board is required to have autonomy in decision-making for all essential certification policies and activities. These revised By-Laws strengthen the BECT's responsibilities and the ability to create and structure the BECT plus any boards, committees or groups and members of them necessary to satisfy accreditation requirements if the full BECT is unable to fulfill the requirements.
2. Additional stipulations added to ensure that responsibility for all other NAHRO credentialing programs and related activities remains with the NAHRO Board of Governors (BOG).
3. BECT elections procedures are modified to ensure the BECT members are able to be seated at the start of their terms and participate fully including election of officers. Currently Trustees elected by Board of Governors were not seated until the first full meeting of the BOG in the following year with the President's appointees not able to be seated until the BOG acted.
4. Nomination and appointment procedures are refined to explicitly state the responsibilities of the NAHRO Regional Councils, the NAHRO Board of Governors and the NAHRO President.

Action: Motion by Sharon Carlson, second by Larry Williams to approve the proposed bylaw changes.

Comment: Ed Mayer extended thanks, recognition and appreciation to the BECT for restructuring its functionality and the achievement of efficiencies. The accreditation of programs and enforcement of our integrity are crucial.

Question: President Merritt referred Mr. Trozzi to item #1, which states "NAHRO is seeking third-party accreditation of NAHRO Certification programs." This requirement could impede NAHRO's ability to attract customers, said President Merritt. He asked if there could be instances wherein NAHRO would not seek accreditation of a certification. Mr. Trozzi's response to President Merritt's question was yes. President Merritt suggested a friendly amendment to the resolution: "NAHRO is seeking third party accreditation of **selected** NAHRO Certification Programs or something to that effect, as the current wording is specific and does not allow flexibility."

Betsey Martens commented that Professional Development should recommend which programs to put forth for certification; the BECT would implement them. President Merritt agreed with Ms. Martens' comment and suggested this issue be remanded back to PD and BECT. Sunny Shaw also expressed agreement with the comments made by President Merritt and Betsey Martens.

Mr. Hopkins said that, in the past, it was the intent of the Professional Development Committee to have all of its offerings accredited. The discussion with regards to which courses will go through the accreditation process as opposed to a NAHRO certification continues.

Mr. Trozzi shared these courses are moving toward accreditation: CME, CMPO, CMVO, and CMMO, each in an incremental fashion. He said that a determination will be made on which certification courses should be accredited.

Parliamentarian Joseph Lamagna called for point of clarification, stating that the proposal on the floor from President Merritt has a friendly amendment which adds “selected” before NAHRO Certification Programs in paragraph one. This would alleviate all of the concerns expressed.

Ms. Martens suggested an addition to President Merritt’s friendly amendment, calling for clarification of relationships and roles, and adding that the Professional Development committee should identify same.

President Merritt observed that as a member of the Board, he is not ready to call for approval of this resolution and suggested a motion to table and remand back to Professional Development and BECT for additional vetting and action.

Action: Motion by Preston Prince, second by DeeAnna Peterson to table the resolution and remand back to Professional Development, BECT and SPAG for additional vetting and action. MOTION CARRIED.

BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (B&A)

2017 Revised Budget

BACKGROUND:

At the October 2016 Board of Governors meeting, the B&A committee recommended that the Board adopt the 2017 budget proposal as presented with the requirement that staff work with the B&A committee to review and adjust the budget where needed. The requirement was to address the operating concerns related to current performance in all operating divisions within the organization focusing on the revenue-generating divisions of Professional Development, Conferences, and Members Services.

Staff and the B&A committee have met numerous times since the National Conference and have worked diligently on crafting the revised budget presented at this time. The major changes in the revised budget include the reductions in revenue projections in certain PD product lines as well as the addition of expenses related to the CEO search process.

Chair Peterson thanked John Bohm, Jeff Falcusan and Blake Pavlik for their time and work and Steve Merritt, Duane Hopkins and Carl Richie for their participation during B&A teleconferences. She noted, although the budget reflects a negative balance, the trends are beginning to change direction for this year and they are optimistic that the budget will fare better than projected. The committee felt confident in bringing this resolution to the Board. The narrative explained what the numbers do not.

Discussion:

Preston Prince applauded Ms. Peterson as B&A chair and the work done to produce the report and asked to see the balance sheet, which will reflect the health of the organization.

Betsey Martens commented she holds the chair and the B&A members in the highest regard and is grateful for all of the work that the committee has done; however, the Board of Governors, in adopting a deficit budget should see a balance sheet so that Board members know what the fund balance is. Ms. Martens recalled having asked for a balance sheet at the last three or four meetings and that the Board,

at least, should see the balance sheet. Ms. Martens is willing to trust the work of the B&A; yet, reiterated the request for the balance sheet. She shared it would be irresponsible to make a budgetary decision without disclosing and reviewing the fund balance with the Board or the Steering Committee at the least on a biannual basis.

Ms. Peterson mentioned the Steering Committee has received documents over the past year, up to October. From October to present, the documents were not available during this period due to changes to the budget. She advised that a balance sheet will be provided for the next Steering Committee teleconference.

Duane Hopkins advised that Professional Development has pushed very hard regarding the lack of financial information and financial transparency over the last few years. However, over the last three months, the meetings he has attended, teleconferences with the B&A, and the interaction he has had with the NAHRO staff, (CFO Reggie Hart and PD Liaison Jeff Falcusan), have resulted in significant progress being made in providing detailed and transparent information on budget projections for 2017. We now have a base with which we can measure business operations against income from professional development areas. Data, such as number of people registering for each course and cost or revenue from each registrant, are available and now these reports will be the basis for the increased financial and business reporting in which the PD committee will engage. Vice President Hopkins thanked Ms. Peterson and the B&A for their commitment.

ACTION: Motion by DeeAnna Peterson, second by Preston Prince to approve the revised 2017 budget. MOTION CARRIED.

STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Standing Committee

Background:

In all of our committees and the work that we do to provide all types of housing for all types of people in all parts of town, we achieve that by focused attention on those issues. The work of the Diversity Task Force within SPAG has centered on the idea of trying to provide all types of all leadership opportunities for all types of people in all parts of NAHRO. Addressing diversity is not new to national NAHRO. In 2013, then-President Betsey Martens created a Diversity Task Force because of the apparent lack of diversity within the NAHRO leadership. Diversity Fellows Tina Akers-Brown and Austin Simms led conversations at the national, regional and chapter levels about diversity; facilitated conversations at Board of Governors (BOG) meetings; participated in conference sessions; examined regional by-laws, discussed the value of diversity and encouraged incoming regional presidents to consider diversity in appointing members in leadership positions. Based on their findings, the NAHRO BOG adopted a [NAHRO Diversity Statement](#).

At the 2016 Leadership Retreat, diversity and the importance of issues surfaced in numerous conversations throughout the retreat. Specifically, the BOG (a) voted unanimously to add diversity as a value; (b) adopted this strategy statement: "Support the adoption and build-out of a consistent

organizational structure to support leadership and internship programs at the regional and state chapter levels that respect and promote diversity;” and (c) assigned the Strategic Planning Advisory Group (SPAG) this strategic idea: “Diversity! Don’t lose sight of the ball. Encourage regions and chapters to be conscious of diversity. How do we translate the value of diversity? The national Senior Vice President should include this strategic idea in conversations with Regional Senior Vice Presidents.” The only way we cannot lose sight is if we take definitive actions and put into place an infrastructure to make sure that we are constantly attentive to the issue.

At its July 2016 meeting, SPAG formed a Diversity Task Force. It was tasked with several questions to examine in-depth. One question examined how other associations are addressing diversity. It was noted the organizational structure of most associations included a committee that focused on diversity. Today, the reality is that there still is a need for greater diversity among the NAHRO leadership.

SPAG’s Diversity Task concluded the best way for NAHRO to bridge this gap and to address the myriad of issues related to diversity and “not lose sight of the ball,” was to recommend a permanent place in the NAHRO organizational structure to address these issues: the creation of a standing committee—*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*. The Task Force recognized that diversity provides the potential for greater innovation and creativity. Inclusion is what enables organizations to realize the benefits of this potential. Equity embraces the association’s commitment to fair and equal treatment of its members.

Mr. Gerber asked Vanessa Cooper, Chair of the Diversity Task Force to present the recommendations.

Recommendation #1: Create a Position of Vice President with Portfolio of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the level of the Board of Governors (BOG).

There are two recommended concurrent administrative processes to meet this goal:

- a. Create a Standing Committee. Amend the NAHRO Constitution to create a standing committee—*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*. To effect this, the BOG in March would direct the SPAG, in coordination with the Member Services Committee (MSC), to draft a committee description and language for a constitutional amendment that would be submitted to both the MSC and BOG for action at their July meetings. If passed by both groups, the amendment could be included with the 2017 election ballots for NAHRO president and senior vice president.

- b. Ask President Merritt to appoint immediately a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force that will continue the work of the SPAG Diversity Task Force, which would transition to the Standing Committee.

Task force members will be appointed by the President in consultation with the Senior Vice President, current and incoming Regional Presidents. The newly established Task Force should provide the standing committee with a transition report, which may include specific recommendations for changes to the existing Diversity Statement.

Recommendation 2: Request that the BOG direct the NAHRO staff and conference planning committees to proactively include a broad range of diverse speakers in the compilation of the conference panels and at other NAHRO events and encourage regions and chapters to do the same.

It is recommended that calls for session proposals require respondents to describe their panelists and state how they comply with the NAHRO Diversity Statement.

(Note: The NAHRO staff currently includes this statement in calls for session proposals: “NAHRO seeks to meet the goals of its Diversity Statement by encouraging diverse panelists (including race, ethnicity, gender, age and sexual orientation) for all its conference sessions. We ask moderators/speakers to be mindful of this objective when submitting recommendations for moderators and speakers.”)

Recommendation 3: Recommend and emphasize that the CEO interview process include attention to candidates’ background, experience and efforts to support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Due to timing issues, a Task Force member who is also on the CEO Search Committee has already relayed this recommendation directly to President Merritt.

Discussion/Comments:

Rick Leco offered a clarification. Recommendation #1 should read: “Create position of Vice President with Portfolio of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion acting **under** the Board of Governors (BOG)” and not at the same level as the Board. Carl Richie advised the intent would be for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to be a standing committee, which means a Vice President with Portfolio and thus also concurrently holding a seat on the Board of Governors.

Preston Prince thanked Vanessa Cooper for her work on the recommendations. He supported the Diversity Task Force, was proud of the Diversity Statement that was adopted, and strongly supports recommendations 2 and 3; however, he indicated that he does not completely support the recommended administrative process (a) creating a standing committee, which is recommendation #1. Mr. Prince recalled a conversation held a year ago about examining NAHRO’s governance. He pointed out that there are other committees that have been around for years, which do not have standing committee status, i.e., Legislative Network and Housing America. He said we have to focus on diversity and inclusion not only in our organization but in our communities as well. He noted it may not be the right time and framework—that we need to start a broader discussion on governance.

Mike Gerber advised that SPAG considered that issue and does not want to add to what is a cumbersome governance structure. He said more and more associations, according to SPAG’s work with consultant John Parke, and other research conducted by the task force and observations within our own agencies and within private-sector corporations, such research showed there is more of an emphasis toward achieving greater diversity and inclusion. It is not only important to reflect who we serve, but who we are as a community, and the values we stand for.

Mr. Gerber mentioned the idea of a diversity and inclusion committee to his staff and learned that although they have never participated in NAHRO and have not had the opportunity to attend a NAHRO conference, the idea that they could be engaged in this area is something that excited them. It is an important opportunity to be an access point for a lot of people who have not found an avenue or felt as welcomed at the table.

President Merritt noted small housing authorities are ably represented by the Small Agencies Task Force. Staffs of small agencies participate and are made to feel welcomed so there are different avenues to accomplish this.

Action: Motion by Michael Gerber, second by Patricia Wells to approve recommendation #1, which was approved unanimously by the SPAG.

Action: Motion by Preston Prince, second by Patti Webster to remove recommendation #1 from the resolution. (Determined by Parliamentarian to be a motion to amend.)

Discussion:

Carl Richie asked if recommendation #1 is removed, then is item (b) being removed also? “Ask President Merritt to appoint immediately a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force that will continue the work of the SPAG Diversity Task Force, which would transition to the Standing Committee.”

Mr. Prince said a task force was created under the Diversity Policy adopted approximately four years ago either under Betsey Marten’s presidency or his own. He felt one was created however, it may not be in effect.

Mr. Richie said he was informed there is not currently a national diversity task force. If the task force still exists, we need to determine who is on it, how to recreate it and have it integrated into the SPAG Diversity Task Force.

Ms. Wells shared that Club 21, a small group that meets at conferences and interacts via teleconferences is thought of by many as a book club. However, the titles of books and films the group promotes allow us to think more thoughtfully about the idea of diversity and not just talk about it or have a statement about it but integrate it into the work that is done in leadership as well as in our respective regions. Club 21 is represented nationwide; yet, it is a small group. The fact that it is a small group and that Club 21 activities are not robust in attendance might speak to the fact that we need to keep the discussion of diversity, especially in the current climate in the forefront. If it is not adding to the governance structure, Ms. Wells would agree with the Senior Vice President then that it definitely needs to be a task force that is reinvigorated in order to focus on this important topic.

Mr. Richie said the task force created during Betsey Marten's presidency got lost and thus the discussion as well. Until someone is appointed and given the authority to, things do not get done. Thus, the reason for the recommendation of the creation of the standing committee with portfolio or task force on diversity.

Joseph Lamagna pointed out there is a motion on the floor, which is to remove recommendation #1 from consideration. That motion can be either for clarification, or for further discussion. It is inappropriate according to Roberts Rules of Order to have a merits discussion.

Preston Prince added clarification to his motion. He advised he does not want the conversation to end because of the importance of this issue. He reiterated he does not feel it is the right time.

Sylvia Bowen said currently there is not a national task force on diversity. The Diversity Statement that the Board adopted in 2013 does not reference, nor suggest the appointment of a national task force.

Several Board members spoke passionately both in favor of the establishment of a standing committee with portfolio now and the need to consider the issue in the context of a broader discussion on governance.

Senior Vice President Richie said the intent of the recommendation was to ask Member Services to explore the establishment of a Diversity standing committee with portfolio and for Member Services to submit a recommendation to the Board in July 2017. If passed, members will be asked to vote on this issue as an amendment to the NAHRO Constitution on the election ballot for NAHRO president and senior vice president. In the interim, the President could appoint a Task Force on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

President Merritt advised that he would at this conference solicit members to serve on a national diversity task force, which he would appoint immediately.

President Merritt said he made the decision to delay the discussion on governance until the new CEO is onboard.

After much discussion, the following motions were offered for the Board's consideration and action:

Action: Motion by Mike Gerber, second by Patricia Wells to withdraw the motion on the floor that relates to recommendation #1, to establish a standing committee on Diversity, Equity and inclusion. MOTION CARRIED.

Action: Motion by Preston Prince, second by Patti Webster to withdraw their resolution, remove recommendation #1 from the resolution. MOTION CARRIED.

Action: Motion by Mike Gerber second by Larry Williams to: (1) ask President Merritt to appoint immediately a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force that will continue the work of the SPAG Diversity Task Force; (2) request that the BOG direct the NAHRO staff and conference planning committee to proactively include a broad range of diverse speakers in the compilation of the conference panels and other NAHRO events; (3) recommend and emphasize that the CEO interview process include attention to candidates' background, experience and efforts to support diversity, equity and inclusion. Motion CARRIED.

Action: Motion by Carl Richie, second by Regina Mitchell to request the Member Services Committee to study the creation of a standing committee for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force, Housing America Task Force, Small Agencies Task Force, and Legislative Network with a report to the BOG at the 2017 Summer Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE

Spot on Advocacy Program

Resolution: Board of Governors adopt the Spot on Advocacy program, incorporate a permanent booth at the National Conference and Exhibition and provide adequate space at the NAHRO Center during the Washington and Summer Conferences.

Rick Leco, Vice President-Commissioners, wished to amend the resolution with the following explanation: The Commissioners Committee hopes that others will step up and volunteer to staff these booths at registration and vendor conferences.

ACTION: Motion by Rick Leco, second by Joseph D'Ascoli to amend the resolution to read as follows: Board of Governors to adopt the Spot on Advocacy Program, incorporate it into the NAHRO booth at the National Conference and Exhibition, and provide adequate space at the NAHRO Center at the Washington and Summer Conferences.

MOTION CARRIED.

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Conference Site Selection Process

Background: After the decision to accept Boston as the site of the 2019 Summer Conference the committee discussed the viability of continuing to hold a summer conference. Because the conference continues to make money for the organization and it is a convenient venue to conduct committee meetings, the Member Services committee decided the conference is still viable, however they expressed interest in becoming more involved in the site selection process to make sure NAHRO selects popular cities.

Resolution: Be it resolved that the Member Services committee be charged with reviewing the current NAHRO Conference site selection process and to make recommendations for appropriate changes to be reported out at the October 2017 National Conference.

Donna Brown Rego, Member Services Chair, wished to amend the resolution as follows:

ACTION: Motion by Donna Brown Rego, second by DeeAnna Peterson to amend resolution as follows: Be it resolved that a subset of the Member Services Committee appointed by the Chair and NAHRO President be charged with reviewing the current NAHRO Conference site selection process and to make recommendations for appropriate changes to be reported out at the October 2017 National Conference.
MOTION CARRIED

NAHRO National Merit Scholarship Program Administered by Housing America Task Force

Carl Richie removed this item from the Consent to the Discussion Agenda to allow the Housing America Task Force Chair, Clif Martin, an opportunity to talk about the scholarship program.

Background:

Both the Member Services committee and Housing America Task Force are thrilled and excited to kick off the National Merit Scholarship Program. We have already completed fundraising for 2017. Each region should submit one application of its choice from the region's own scholarship program, or if no regional scholarship program is in place, select one eligible recipient from the region and complete the entire application for submission. Eight scholarships, one to each region, with six receiving \$1,000 and two exemplary applications receiving an additional \$2,000 and \$5,000 respectively, will be awarded and paid directly to the accredited institution of higher education. The scholarships will be presented in July, with the money being directed to the various academic institutions for fall enrollment.

Resolution: The Member Services committee moves to approve the creation of the NAHRO National Merit Scholarship Program administered by the Housing America Task Force.

Comments/Questions:

President Merritt thanked Senior Vice President Carl Richie for his scholarship fundraising efforts and pulling this together in such a short time period. Carl Richie thanked Michael Gerber and the Housing Authority of the City of Austin for their donation of \$15,000 for the first year. Steve also thanked Clif Martin and the HATF for accepting this as part of their mission. He looks forward to some fulfilling moments as these awards are presented to talented young people who just need a break. President Merritt also thanked the Member Services committee for their efforts in this endeavor.

ACTION: Motion by Clif Martin, second by Patti Webster to approve the NAHRO National Merit Scholarship Program Administered by Housing America Task Force.
MOTION CARRIED

HIGHLIGHTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – VICE PRESIDENT DUANE HOPKINS

Vice President Hopkins reported on three important items:

Professional Development Operations

Last fall, Vice President Hopkins met with John Bohm, Reginald Hart, Jeff Falcusan and Lori Barringer at the NAHRO offices to review items related to the professional development operations. From those meetings, a report was produced and distributed to the PD committee that included his input and sections written by each of the NAHRO staff noted above. This 14-page report gave the PD committee insight into the work of the NAHRO staff and the status of many of the ongoing initiatives the PD committee has asked to be addressed. The broad category of issues included the need for a formal and enhanced relationship between the PD committee and our NAHRO faculty, combined financial and operational results reporting, curriculum status, operations and course scheduling, and our upcoming strategic planning initiative.

2017 Professional Development Budget

Mr. Hopkins participated in three B&A conference calls related specifically to the revised 2017 PD budget. On each successive call, NAHRO staff provided more detailed financial projection information. The information presented by NAHRO staff on the last call, March 15, will be used as the basis for much of the detailed reporting that the PD committee will need going forward to properly oversee the business operations of the Professional Development division.

Curriculum

In January, the PD Quality Assurance Subcommittee made a formal request to have six courses pulled from current offerings until the curriculum and presentation materials are updated. As a result, NAHRO staff now has various members of the NAHRO Faculty engaged in the work to get these courses updated to the quality standards required by the PD committee before they are offered again. In addition, the Curriculum Subcommittee is working on a formal action plan to address deficiencies in curriculum content and course design. This group will be responsible for working with NAHRO staff and Faculty to execute this plan to get our current courses to a higher standard. The new Curriculum Manager position is being added to the staff to ensure the long-term quality of our curriculum. This position is currently open for application.

MEMBER SERVICES—VICE PRESIDENT DONNA BROWN-REGO

Vice President Brown-Rego advised the Board that Lori Myers Carpenter, staff liaison, reported that membership numbers are holding their own since the last conference and we have received several new members. NAHRO has a new email marketing system and new email templates have been developed, which create a more unified brand. Three outreach campaigns were completed last fall in an effort to improve member relations, which included a Thanksgiving message, a holiday email greeting and a NAHRO membership window sticker. We have received nearly 200 applications for the Awards of Merit this year, approximately 40 more than last year.

Awards and Emerging Leaders Subcommittee made minor changes to the Emerging Leaders Award application and scoring sheet, adopted in the consent agenda. The Awards subcommittee also selected four entries from the 2016 Awards of Excellence to be featured in a presentation at the National Conference. The Emerging Leaders discussed a topic for the brown bag luncheon at the Summer Conference and will feature a session – *Navigating through Funding Challenges* and the discussion continued about topics for the National Conference.

Marketing and Relations Subcommittee was charged with the task of creating questions for the next membership survey. After some discussion, they decided to hold off on this task and wait until the new CEO is in place and offer their services to the CEO to create a survey based on her needs. The subcommittee would also like to create more targeted surveys in the future based on job categories instead of the general survey to the membership. They would also like to see real-time surveys conducted at conferences on topical issues.

Information Technology Subcommittee met with Jasmin Rathod, NAHRO IT Director, to be updated on the new email marketing system and they were briefed on a new service that will allow the agency's primary contact update member information in the NAHRO database online. Information about this new service will be coming in the following months. As mentioned in the discussion agenda, the subcommittee had a discussion to adopt a proposal to have the 2019 Summer Conference in Boston, MA and continued the conversation regarding the viability of the summer conference. The conversation lead to the discussion item noted in the Discussion Agenda regarding the review of the site selection process to ensure the subcommittee is selecting areas of the country that will be attractive and result in more registrations.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND GLOBAL EXCHANGE—VICE PRESIDENT JULIE BREWEN

Ms. Brewen advised that 12 delegates have been invited to go to Australia. If more interest is expressed, the selection process will be similar to what was used for the Brazil trip. Twelve NAHRO delegates attended HABITAT III in Quito, Equador; 45,000 participants were in attendance. Vice President Brewen thanked the delegates for attending, seven of whom were present at the Board of Governors meeting. There will be an International brown bag lunch during the conference to discuss how to work with partners on the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito. Approximately 193 member states signed on to the New Urban Agenda. They will be working with partners in addition to HUD like the Ford Foundation, key cities and universities such as the New School. Our goal is to ensure that NAHRO is at the table going forward.

Ms. Brewen thanked the four delegates who will attend the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association Congress in May. The delegates will represent NAHRO in the second international roundtable based on the success in Montreal. The committee is working with INTA on a peer-to-peer event and the possibility of convening this event in a US city where they hope to use the principles of the New Urban Agenda and examine how US cities might be dealing with housing and homelessness. More information will be forthcoming and they may ask for assistance from interested cities on a possible event site.

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT—VICE PRESIDENT DONOVAN DUNCAN

CR&D had a robust discussion with guest speaker, Renée Rooker regarding PHA Accreditation on behalf of the Affordable Housing Accreditation Board (AHAB). Ms. Rooker commented on the pros of PHA accreditation, including strengthening an organization's reputation and its role in the community and industry, securing adequate funding, promoting innovation and stimulating investment. The committee chose not to submit a resolution at this time. Salin Geevarghese, Director, Mixed Income Innovation and Action Network and Senior Advisor, at the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) addressed the committee. The organization intends to select eight to ten communities that are committed to doing mixed income with a "people" focus and a results-based framework. Interested Board members should contact Mr. Donovan (Donovan.suncan@urbanstrategies.org).

Last year, CR&D published the RAD tool kit, which received a lot of attention. Its Redevelopment Subcommittee is on track to produce the Income Tax Credit tool kit this year in July.

COMMISSIONERS—VICE PRESIDENT RICK LECO

Vice President Leco reported the committee discussed the continuation and success of the mentoring program and the Spot-on Advocacy program efforts. The committee also discussed certification, accreditation for PHAs and the role of commissioners and board governance as we move forward. He asked the Board for a moment of silence in memory of longtime Commissioners committee member, Henry Williams, Chairman, Housing Authority of the City of Charleston, S.C., who passed away before this conference. He asked that the condolences of this association be memorialized in the minutes and sent to his family with our deepest sympathies.

HOUSING—VICE PRESIDENT REGINA MITCHELL

The committee had a robust discussion on the offset litigation, after having received a status report from Georgi Banna. Questions should be directed to him at (gbanna@nahro.org). Guest speaker Renée Rooker presented on the PHA Affordable Housing Accreditation Board (AHAB). The committee's concerns regarding the AHAB is that small and medium-sized housing agencies felt they would not be fairly represented and could not participate due to a lack of manpower to complete the steps needed for accreditation. The committee did not move to bring forth a resolution on the matter but asked for additional information and continuing dialogue. The committee also discussed the budget. Tess Hembree presented a detailed briefing on the FY 17 and FY 18 budgets.

The committee discussed the Section 8 Public Housing Assessment System (SEPHAS). The conversation became heated because there are incentives involved in creating and reporting to HUD. Some agencies felt that incentive points are not a great idea because there are factors outside of a PHA's control, which may influence them. Additionally, the committee discussed governance issues with SEPHAS. Under SEPHAS, agencies would be required or could report self-certification, minutes, how often the board convenes, and active board members. The committee thought that board governance was local issue and HUD should not interfere with their local processes. The committee will continue the conversation at the Summer Conference meeting in Indianapolis.

The committee discussed the RAD process and focused more on where the bottlenecks are and the problems some housing authorities experience concerning closing their RAD deals with HUD and securing financing for them. NAHRO staff would like to know when they go to HUD or on the Hill, how they should present the difficulties agencies are having with the RAD deals.

The Section 8 subcommittee discussed the UPCSV demonstration, which is now on hold. Discussions are being held regarding the protocol. Some housing authorities note concern with the demonstration and the implementation of the inspection protocol.

Public Housing subcommittee discussed the Operating Fund and the Capital Fund in great detail including the methodology used to determine the income inflation factor and other factors going into the subsidy calculation. One major item is how the utility costs are being calculated.

BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION—CHAIR DEEANNA PETERSON

Chair Peterson reported the committee has reviewed the audit draft and met with a representative of the audit firm Gellman, Rosenberg and Friedman and had the opportunity to pose questions about the sampling. The audit report will be presented to the Board of Governors at the Summer Conference in Indianapolis.

LEGISLATIVE NETWORK—CHAIR DON MAY

Chair May reported the LEGNET's Steering Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Chris Gouig, co-chair of the group, presided over the meeting because his attendance was required at the CEO Search committee. The Steering committee, which is comprised of 20+ members from each of the eight regions, has been charged with moving the LEGNET's strategic plan forward.

The LEGNET has focused on HOTMA and the need for regulatory relief because a lot of things have not gone into effect. We need to continually reinforce that housing is infrastructure. We need to call attention to Ryan's *A Better Way*. While we may disagree with a lot of the content, it provides talking points that the programs we administer and the housing we provide help reduce poverty and give people a better chance. We are supportive of the Cantwell-Hatch bill and we need to raise our voices because just talk of reducing tax liabilities to corporations has had an impact on the tax credit program. Equity has dropped; thus, we need to talk about unintended consequences; some tax benefits are beneficial while others have reverberating effects.

Carl Richie shared that in the Texas regulatory environment the term "streamlining" is used rather than relief, which connotes getting out of an obligation.

STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP—CHAIR MICHAEL GERBER

The Strategic Planning Advisory Group (SPAG) had a very interesting meeting and talked about the role that SPAG could play and how NAHRO organizationally could be helpful to the new CEO. They talked about how does NAHRO set up a new CEO for success? What is the appropriate role for the BOG, the Steering Committee, and other key committees to help the CEO develop and focus on NAHRO's key organizational priorities? Consultant John Parke facilitated an exercise, the results of which are reflected in a document that has an onboarding checklist and a twelve-month timeline of actions and areas of focus. This document is intended for the new CEO and any kind of transition committee that would be formed to support the CEO.

NAHRO's existing brand is more than 20 years old. In anticipation of the arrival of the CEO shortly, SPAG is hopeful to begin, at its next meeting, the starting phases of rebranding, which will most likely consume SPAG's time for the remainder of the year.

HOUSING AMERICA TASK FORCE—CHAIR CLIF MARTIN

The Housing America Task Force (HATF) and the Housing and Education Task Force (HETF) had a very robust discussion about how many of their objectives run parallel, especially those that focus on the outcomes of youth, and how they can blend ideas and potentially work together. We need to hold conversations about whether HATF and HETF should work more cohesively or each keep its autonomy and independence and come together at times for different work.

At this conference, Chair Martin will participate in the plenary session on Monday morning, where he will call attention to the activities to kick-off the celebration of HATF's tenth anniversary. The 2017 Poster contest winner will also be introduced at the session. The 2018 contest is underway and interim reports reflect that members are engaged in the contest.

HATF and HETF will talk about how to target education in the *What Home Means to Me* program. In order to continually raise awareness of the work of HATF the group is considering what types of events to host for the leadership at conferences.

Mr. Martin encouraged Board members to attend the HATF tenth anniversary concert. In addition to the Honeycutters performing, there will be a silent auction of posters.

Concluding his report, Mr. Martin mentioned the book-drive being held at this conference, which they would like to tie into the little library campaign to help educate our children and put them on better path towards better outcomes.

SMALL AGENCIES TASK FORCE—CHAIR SHARON CARLSON

The Chair reported staff liaison John Bohm presented an update regarding the current status of the SHARP proposal, which died with the last Congress. However, there is reason to be encouraged moving forward. Mr. Bohm was successful in scheduling a meeting with the House Financial Services (HFS) staff director, who is very interested in working with NAHRO to help advance some of our concerns. Ms. Carlson appreciates the senior vice president's comment relative to substituting the word relief with streamlining and will keep that in mind during the meeting with HFS staff.

Chair Carlson was successful in enlisting staff of three small agencies from across the country to join her and Mr. Bohm in a meeting with Laura Lee Burkett, legislative aide to Congressman Palazzo (MS-4), the House member who introduced H.R. 4816 in the last Congress.

Policy analysts Tushar Gurjal and Eric Oberdorfer provided information about the idea of forming consortia or consolidating agencies from the Section 8 voucher program perspective. They answered questions from SATF members and received comments from members in that regard. SATF members were asked to provide the Chair with a list of their concerns to share with the financial services staff. They were also asked to familiarize themselves with speaker Ryan's blueprint for ending poverty and to use some of that conversation in their meetings on Capitol Hill. Lastly, Renée Rooker presented on the Affordable Housing Accreditation Board and agency accreditation. Questions arose related to costs that might be associated with accreditation for small agencies as well as capacity.

HOUSING AND EDUCATION TASK FORCE—PRESTON PRINCE, CHAIR

Mr. Prince echoed Mr. Martin's comment regarding the great conversation with the Housing America Task Force and applauded the work that HATF is doing, which has incorporated the theme of education.

HETF had a heated conversation regarding whether or not to ask for standing national status and settled instead on having a conversation of its strategic purpose. They identified successes: a webinar, a survey of PHAs that are doing education; participation in national conversations with the Department of Education and HUD Secretary's office; partnership with the Grade Level Reading Campaign, the MOU; Georgi is presenting at the upcoming Great American Cities conference in Denver, which is themed around grade level reading. NAHRO and PHAs are well connected within the campaign.

HATF talked about what to do next, what they want to be, and what things they should focus on, i.e., more webinars and conference sessions. Members shared ideas about what was happening in their own communities.

Concluding his report, Chair Prince said HETF members would like to work with President Merritt on a letter to the Secretary about the importance of housing and education and to bring some of their HATF ideas to the Secretary's attention.

BOARD OF ETHICS AND CREDENTIALING TRUSTEES—CHAIR DAN TROZZI

Chair Trozzi reported the certification focus group approved new measures for further continuing education units. One was to accept FL and NJ commissioners training, provided faculty and staff approved and that they meet BECT standards.

Two new focus groups will be established: **Accreditation**, which will specifically identify steps and details to assist staff in furthering this mission; and **Business Plan**, to address each task/tactics with timetables and measures to accomplish each for the remainder of this term.

Certification will continue its work with PD to help keep NAHRO trainings relevant and current. BECT received two presentations: Jeff Falcusan presented on PD and Renée Rooker presented on Affordable Housing accreditation program.

HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT LAW INSTITUTE— REPRESENTATIVE VIVIAN BRYANT

Representative Bryant shared information about herself: she is president of HDLI and president and chief executive officer of the Orlando Housing Authority. She reflected upon why NAHRO created HDLI in 1984, which was to be a legal resource for housing agencies and their counsel. The HDLI Board is comprised of prominent agency counsel and local agency executive directors who represent agencies of all sizes.

HDLI maintains a listserv of housing topics that are particularly valuable to small agencies; publishes the index of HUD regulations; produces a newsletter, “the Counsellor,” a compendium of legal cases that impact housing authorities; produces the “HDLI Messenger,” a monthly update of news, legal Q&A., etc. HDLI’s four annual conferences include the Leo Dauwer Commissioners conference; day-long conference in conjunction with the annual NAHRO conference and exhibition; a general counsel forum; and a spring conference in Washington, DC.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Presented by Regional Presidents

SERC: David Baldwin

This year the region will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its Martin Luther King Basketball Tournament and Leadership Conference. The event is attended by scores of young men who come to venues they would not have otherwise had an opportunity to go to. Activities include a basketball tournament, leadership, cultural and educational activities, which broadens their perspectives about life. Two years ago, the program was expanded to include young ladies. They participated in a cheerleading competition. The region has modeled the Georgia Association’s conference for young women region-wide, which is primarily an educational and leadership event for young people throughout the region.

The SERC annual conference will be held in Nashville, TN. Candidates for national senior vice president will present. The candidate for president, Carl Richie, is unable to participate at this conference; however, the region appreciates his attendance at the 2016 conference. The conference program will again include a track of sessions for small agencies (for the third time), which is an opportunity for attendees to learn

more about small agency issues. At previous conferences, this track was well-attended and well-received amongst the SERC membership.

Concluding his comments, Mr. Baldwin pointed out to the Board that the regional members have been working on updating its bylaws and anticipate bringing amendments before the Board in July.

MPRC: Dianne Hovdestad

The region has established a regional small agency task force that is chaired by John Stengle of South Dakota. Additionally, the region is working to engage several new directors in both regional and national NAHRO.

South Dakota was very successful this past winter in negotiating a contract with the state housing finance agency. They had introduced legislation to name them as the sole state-wide PHA as a way to regionalize the voucher program. They were able to get them to agree that it would only pertain to what they are currently doing as project based contract administrators.

The region's annual conference will be held May 22-26 in Vail, CO. The maintenance conference will be held the first two days and the management conference the last three days.

SWRC: Darrin Taylor

The region is preparing for its 77th annual conference that will be held in San Antonio, June 5-8. Highlights include a Habitat for Humanity build-out. They are also planning for a leadership transition meeting in August in Grapevine, TX.

Members are working hard to create small agency task forces at the state chapter level and they are working collectively with Sharon Carlson, who chairs with national Small Agencies Task Force.

Recently, there has been a lot of organic grassroots advocacy going on in the region; there was a lot of reaction to the Washington Post budget leak. The region will build on this energy and strive to get more staff, residents and communities active in advocacy at the grassroots level.

PSWRC: Ed Mayer

The region's annual conference will be held in Long Beach, May 8-9. Keynoters Donna Beagle and Sasha Abramsky will speak to poverty.

The region is very grateful for the open invitation from the Mountain Plains Regional Council to join them in their legislative strategy work. MPRC also invited the Pacific Northwest region.

California has a third of the nation's vouchers. Many agencies in the state will have a shortfall in the Section 8 programs. Mr. Mayer's agency is looking at terminating participants starting in May should there be a change in course.

PNRC: Sunny Shaw

The region is actively planning its annual conference scheduled in Portland, April 24-23. It will be a fabulous event, with 27 concurrent sessions. The region lives in honor of diversity and recognizes that diversity is an important issue that should be discussed at the regional level as well. There will be sessions on race and justice systems, implicit bias and how to counteract. A keynote speaker, Tim Wise, is among one of the most well-respected, anti-racist writers and educators in the U.S.

The region has formed a group to work on creating career enhancement initiatives, which will provide funding for member agencies to send staff to conferences or other professional development opportunities, as an added member benefit.

The region continues to work to support “NAHRO first” in training and members have been working diligently to bring trainings to the region that are hosted by the region. A regional slate of officers is prepared for transition in the fall.

NERC: Joseph D’Ascoli

The region held its mid-winter conference in January. Both Sunny and Ailrick, candidates for senior vice president, presented at the meeting. Sharon Carlson did a tremendous job presenting the Commissioners training.

The region’s annual conference will be held in Rockport, Maine, in June. Senior Vice President Carl Richie has been invited to attend. Letters have gone out to all Maine delegates so hopefully the region will have representation from the state of Maine at the conference.

CT NAHRO will hold its conference in August. Both candidates for senior vice president will be invited to attend. This conference attracts more than 350 attendees.

Baseball America signed a contract with Hartford Yard Goats, a double-A team for the Colorado Rockies. Baseball America will be held in July and will honor a child from the Housing Authority. This year, the Pawtucket Red Sox will sponsor five games, one each month.

The region has held Professional Development trainings—recently on grievance and capital funds.

MARC: David Allen Brown

Working on the region’s annual conference, scheduled for August 17-18 in Washington, DC. The theme of the conference is “*One Hope, One Mission, and One Voice: Strategies for Change.*” Agencies are engaged in the Housing America Poster contest. Recently, the region established a scholarship for the benefit of agency staff and commissioners to attend a PD offering or certification. It is named in honor of regional pioneers Gilliam, Milan, Moyer and Smith. Mr. Brown advised Board members that donations are accepted online, at www.marcnahro.org. Regional members are also assisting national NAHRO staff in preparations for the conference in Pittsburgh.

NCRC: DeeAnna Peterson

The region’s Annual Conference will be held May 3-5 in Detroit. The two candidates for senior vice president have been invited. One will be live and the other via video. Senior vice president Carl Richie will participate via video as well.

Since the last meeting, the region has hired a new service officer, Cheryl Ann Farmer, who has extensive background in organizational management and has been great for the region. The region has a new website. The background color, burnt red, NAHRO’s color, was chosen because the region is a subset of NAHRO. The region is in the process of planning a one-day training in August, which will focus on timely and relevant issues.

The region has an additional agency scholarship for smaller agencies so that they can participate in the UPCSV demonstration. The region provided money for the hand-held device to any agencies that wanted to participate but could not do so because of the cost.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Merritt congratulated staff for their work on the Washington Conference; attendance exceeded budget. He also commended the policy team for the production of the Legislative and Regulatory Agenda, citing that it is precise, informative, and easy to read.

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

No report in the interest of time.

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

John Bohm shared specific conference registration statistics: 868 paid attendees; 905 total. In the interest of time, he will submit a written report to the Board, which will encompass from October 2016 to current and some reflections on the last 11 months. ([Click here](#) to read Mr. Bohm’s written report, which was transmitted to the Board on April 11.)

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Bohm expressed appreciation to the Board for the honor and privilege of serving as acting chief executive officer. He looks forward to continuing to work closely with the organization as Director of Congressional Relations.

ACTION: Motion by Regina Mitchell; second by Rick Leco to move into Executive Session. MOTION CARRIED.

Board action taken during the Executive Session was conveyed to the NAHRO Chief Financial Officer for implementation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 2017 CONFERENCES.

Summer Conference: July 15-17: Indianapolis, Indiana
National Conf. /Exhibition: Oct. 27-29: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

ACTION: Motion by Duane Hopkins; second by Regina Mitchell to adjourn the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Steve Merritt, Carl Richie, Duane Hopkins, Donovan Duncan, Rick Leco, Donna Brown-Rego, Julie Brewen and Regina Mitchell.

Past Presidents: Preston Prince and Betsey Martens.

Regional Representatives:

NERC – Joseph D’Ascoli, Diane Cohen, Bill Quirk

NCRC – DeeAnna Peterson, Larry Williams, Marty Ryan

MARC – David Allen Brown, Diane Haislip, Clif Martin, Elizabeth Glenn

SERC – David Baldwin, Ailrick Young, C. Sean Gilbert, L. Thomas Rowe

SWRC – Darrin Taylor, David Zappasodi, David Lange, Larry Hopkins

PSWRC – Ed Mayer, Patricia Wells, Ramsey Jay

PNRC – Sunny Shaw, Lowel Krueger, Saeed Hajarizadeh

MPRC – Dianne Hovdestad, Ann Horton, Matt Pike, Patti Webster

Presidential Appointees: Shaunte Evans, Sharon Carlson, Mike Gerber

Ex Officio: Dan Trozzi, Joseph Lamagna, Don May and Vivian Bryant.

Absent: Doug Rise

Excused Absence: Carol Gore, Akinola Popoola and Tina Sullivan

NAHRO Staff: John Bohm, Georgi Banna, Lori Barringer, Sylvia Bowen, Jeff Falcusan, Sylvia Gimenez, Tushar Gurjal, Reginald Hart, Tess Hembree, Jenny Hsu, Lori Myers-Carpenter, Eric Oberdorfer, Blake Pavlik, La Tonya Rajah, Jasmin Rathod and Carmen Smith.