



Southwest NAHRO

Building Communities in the Southwest Region

Southwest Region Report to the NAHRO Board of Governor's July 2018

Regional Conference:

The Southwest Regional Council of NAHRO recently held our annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas June 24 – 28, 2018. There were 353 participating attendees, guests, speakers, exhibitors, scholarship and awards winners. There were 51 First Time Attendees registered for the conference. The conference kickoff was the 6th Annual Habitat for Humanity Build where 49 participants helped with repairs to tiny homes in Little Rock! This annual project assists in our efforts to increase local awareness and encourage dialogue and attract media coverage for a very worthy charity in the conference host city. This build day unites our leadership, brings new conference attendees/members into the NAHRO family for a very good cause, and helps cities become aware that affordable housing professionals are more than just bureaucrats or housing cops. We encourage each participant to share from the hundreds of photos with their city press, sister agencies, and state & federal politicians. We feel this type of story puts a more human face on our members and allows for a dialogue to start with local and regional media.

We were honored to have NAHRO CEO, Adrienne Todman, provide remarks at our opening ceremony and, NAHRO Sr. Vice President, Sunny Shaw, addressed our attendees and participated in the training sessions. NAHRO President, Carl Richie was able to join us on Wednesday evening for the Charles Farris Awards banquet and addressed our attendees at the closing business meeting on Thursday morning.

Fun was not missing from our conference – we truly went Hawg Wild for Housing. Monday we had an evening at Bevis Farms where all attendees and their families were invited to swim, fish, dance and enjoy all the other outdoor activities associated with a Hog Roast; Tuesday evening we had Hawg Wild Karaoke where even NAHRO CEO, Adrienne Todman, and NAHRO Sr. Vice President, Sunny Shaw couldn't resist participating in the Karaoke show! I'm not sure that we found any rising stars in the music business, but we have plenty of stars in the housing business!

Professional Development:

At our recent regional conference we were able to provide NAHRO's RAD-PBV certification course to more than 30 attendees and provided Commissioners: Board & Management Relations to the 30 commissioners in attendance. We are already working on the NAHRO courses to be provided at our 2019 conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Membership Growth and Retention:

SWRC NAHRO currently has 617 members and associates and has exceeded our membership budget goals for 2018!

Housing America Activities:

SWRC NAHRO encourages each of our States to promote Housing America activities within their respective communities.

Scholarships and Awards Programs:

SWRC NAHRO was excited to announce the 2018 Scholarship recipients at the regional conference. There were 7 Resident Graduating Seniors who received scholarships totaling \$9,750; 4 Children of staff scholarship recipients totaling \$3,750 and 3 Head of Household/Resident scholarship recipients totaling \$2,250!

The Member Services committee raised \$4,663 for the general scholarship fund and the Scholarship Foundation committee raised more than \$7,000 for the Foundation through the silent auction and individual donors.

During the regional conference there were 22 award recipients announced, including the coveted Horse's Aft award that for the 2nd year in a row went to Blake Farris! SWRC NAHRO bestowed its most prestigious Charles Farris award to Fred Banks, Denham Springs Housing Authority!

Advocacy:

SWRC NAHRO was pleased to have regional position paper this year, spearheaded by Tanya Mabry, Sr. Vice President. Our goal is to continue to increase our participation in the legislative activities each year!

Other Items of Note: None



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