

NEUAC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Spring 2022

Virtual – Zoom Meeting

February 24, 2022 at 1:00 PM

*-Meeting votes and outcomes are **bolded** throughout-*

1. Call to Order (Rhonda Harper)

- Quorum established at 1:03 PM by Erin Mao
- Meeting called to order at 1:04 PM by Rhonda Harper
- Attendees: Denise Adamucci, Zoe Ahlstrom, Tonya Anderson, Celia Andrade, Edith Baltierrez, Elizabeth Berube, Mike Bradford, Liz Brister, Kim Campbell, Kelly Caplan, Brian Caudill, Chere Coleman, David Conn, Scott Alan Davis, Maria Delaplain, Amanda Dewey, Alison Donovan, Gerri Drummond, Kenley Farmer, Tiffany Gilstrap, John Godfrey, Keelie Gustin, Rhonda Harper, Enrique Hernandez, Susie Holmes, Saunteel Jenkins, Tanya Jones, Billie Kaumaya, Kathleen Kerr, Faye Kinner, Haly Laasme, Erica Lambert, Nancy Loehr, Steve Luxton, Tim O’Dea, Allison Poe, Chad Quinn, Frank Rapley, John Rich, Kim Rikalo, Sheila Ruffin, John Sarver, Sarah Schaffer, Andrea Schroer, Angie Sterner, Bonnie Temme, Scott Thach, Olivia Wein, Steve Whitworth, Emily Wong, Katrina Metzler, Erin Mao, Bridget Doran, Jennifer Whiting, Jackie Castellon (SRP), Alita Corbitt (NJ SHARES), Aida Vasconez
- Introduction of new board member, Amanda Dewey, from ACEEE – replacing Ariel Drehobl

2. Approve Minutes from December 2021 Meeting (Rhonda Harper)

- Votes will be considered “Yay,” unless “Abstain” or “Nay” in the chat
- **Motion to accept the minutes from December 2021**
 - **1st: Michael Bradford**
 - **2nd: Enrique Hernandez**
 - **Abstain: Amanda Dewey, Alita Corbitt**
 - **Motion Passes**

3. Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee (John Rich)**
 - 2021 Profit and Loss Statement

- Katrina doing an excellent job keeping us on budget and managing our expenses.
 - Katrina – event revenue (made considerably more money with exhibit sales, LAD returns, and virtual price conference increase)
 - Offset minor losses for Sponsorships, increase in Memberships.
 - Far less on expenses, same on revenue, net for NEUAC for 2021
 - 2021 Balance Sheet
 - Assets up from last year and in cash, which is ideal
 - Four accounts still utilized by NEUAC; overall healthy organization
 - No questions on 2021 financials
 - **Motion to approve the unaudited FY end 2021 financials**
 - **1st: John Rich**
 - **2nd: Steve Whitworth**
 - **Abstain: None**
 - **Motion Passes**
 - January 2022 Profit and Loss Statement/Balance Sheet
 - Timing issue on contributions – behind in December 2021, ahead in January 2022
 - Katrina – received \$22,000 in LAD sponsorships and \$12,000 in revenue – some will be reflected in January, other funds reflected in February – discrepancy in financial reports compared with Katrina’s report later in the meeting
 - Reflects income for January; currently six figures in total assets
 - **Motion to approve January 2022 financials**
 - **1st: Steve Whitworth**
 - **2nd: Kim Rikalo**
 - **Abstain: None**
 - **Motion Passes**
 - Retirement Plan Update
 - Currently established with Vestwell, and using third party contractor Corporate Payroll Services (currently utilized by NEUAC for payroll)
 - First withdrawals 02.28.2022 payroll
 - Type of Plan: 401(k) with 4% NEUAC match
- **Conference Committee (Liz Brister, Katrina Metzler)**
 - Review of Draft Health and Safety Policy for New Orleans Conference
 - Following the lead of New Orleans, as a city
 - Masks provided by Tennessee Valley Authority, KN95, to each participant
 - Current New Orleans requirements: masks, vaccinations (does not include booster, at this time) or proof of negative COVID test required (72 hour PCR tests, only)
 - Photo on phone of vaccination card is permitted
 - Checks are being done by hotel and restaurant staff – including hotel security teams
 - All guidelines are subject to change; keep an eye out for updates to this policy

- New Orleans Conference: June 27 – June 30
 - Liz Brister: Survey being sent out soon to determine who may be coming to attend the event
 - Room block is available – check the NEUAC website: <https://book.passkey.com/event/50245816/owner/6139/home>
 - Silent Auction – Think about donation of items for this year; also donate items to handout at the conference; contact Katrina with information
 - Sponsorships also still available: <https://neuac.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/NEUAC-Sponsorship-Form-2022-FINAL.pdf>
 - Traditionally, NEADA meets alongside NEUAC for their annual meeting; NEADA will be meeting virtually; State Directors may still attend the conference, but no simultaneous meeting

- **Membership and Fundraising (Steve Whitworth)**
 - 230 is the goal for 2022; 189 members as of today, at 82% of our goal
 - 174 renewals; 15 new members; approximately 50 members that have not renewed
 - Outreach Assignments (Katrina Metzler)
 - List of 2021 members not renewed, less than 50. Membership committee divided up Board to make personal contact with folks to see what’s going on
 - Find out whether there’s a specific reason they’ve not joined, etc.
 - Erin Mao: Entirely possible checks in mail/lost in mail; last call/email went out February 2; updated mailing address to PO Box – make sure it was sent to the correct address
 - Can direct to Erin for invoice copies/how to access their online account; concerns/feedback – to Erin and Katrina
 - Fundraising
 - Increase 5% year over year; at \$388k of \$430k goal; big players still awaiting contact
 - Liz Brister: Possibility for a members-only reception at the conference with whiskey tasting; members-only reception may get folks to sign up to join NEUAC
 - Raffle upgraded suite for members at hotel?
 - Katrina: Essential for folks to attend the conference and pull through there; not sure what to expect and want the conference to be as successful as possible

- **Public Policy and Advocacy (Allison Poe, Brian Caudill)**
 - FY 2022 Appropriations – Last week House and Senate passed another CR that will last until March 11, 2022
 - Will give Congress enough time to finish up an Omnibus Bill with FY 2022 appropriations in it; progress is being made and on track to have a full Omnibus Bill
 - President’s Budget should be out next week – may be end of March or early April for FY 2023 budget – starting an entirely new appropriations cycle

- NEUAC and LIHEAP – numbers consistent with what we’ve seen the last few months
- Katrina joined EEI Podcast, The Current, for a podcast discussing LIHEAP. Link: <https://westandforenergy.com/the-current/>

4. Executive Committee Update (Rhonda Harper)

- One year contract for MSI from August 2022 to July 2023
 - MSI contract scheduled to lapse in July 2022; Executive Board decided to extend for one year
 - Further decisions will be made on whether to renew or issue an RFP
 - Discussion: (Katrina) modest cost increase (3.5% for MSI cost of living); contact will carry us through New Orleans and San Diego conference; finance committee looking annually at all contracts and will determine whether to perform an RFP, evaluation, or continue on with each contractor
 - **Motion to ratify one year contract for MSI from August 2022 to July 2023**
 - **1st: Saunteel Jenkins**
 - **2nd: Chere Coleman**
 - **Abstain: None**
 - **Motion Passes**
- Contract amendment with MSI for current year to include cost of registration using Cvent
 - Cvent utilized for Conference Registration
 - Katrina: Cvent not easy to work with when we had to pivot to a virtual conference; explore other options with MSI; participated in three demo/tools and looked at pricing structure and cancellation options
 - Many tools available, many more expensive than Cvent because of package bundling
 - Duplicating the efforts of MSI and our application
 - Amend current contract with Cvent adding \$9/completed registration; contains our historical data; reduce risk
 - **Motion to approve contract amendment with MSI for current year to include cost of registration using Cvent**
 - **1st: Enrique Hernandez**
 - **2nd: Chere Coleman**
 - **Abstain: None**
 - **Motion Passes**
- Chicago Planning Meeting Contract
 - No risk if we have to cancel the rooms/meeting
 - Meeting dates: 10.04 -10.05.2023
 - **Motion for contract ratification for 2023 Chicago Planning Meeting**
 - **1st: Chad Quinn**
 - **2nd: Nancy Loehr**
 - **Abstain: None**
 - **Motion Passes**
- Endorsement decision re: The Heating and Cooling Relief Act of 2022
 - HR 6437, also known as the Markey (MA)-Bowman Bill (NY) (Katrina)

- Discussed on membership, PPA calls – Executive Committee review recommendation of public policy team RE: NEUAC endorsement
- Katrina assisted with the language of the bill, but it ended up being very broad; ideas that came up in this piece of legislation will continue to come up, but not something NEUAC has elected to endorse at this point
- “Shoot for the stars legislation”; Katrina retaining open communication with Markey and Bowman’s offices even though we are not endorsing the legislation
- Discussion of a position paper on whether NEUAC endorses reauthorization of LIHEAP, etc.; Katrina previously posed the question to PP&A committee, nothing in writing at this time; varied interests of NEUAC membership
- Discussion of future of bill (Brian Caudill) – parts of the bill have merit, listen to the offices stating it is a “shoot for the star bill” – Poe – parts pulled from it, but not an “appetite on the hill” for a bill like this, at this time.
- **Motion to ratify the decision of Executive Committee that NEUAC will not officially endorse the Markey-Bowman Bill**
 - **1st: Kim Campbell**
 - **2nd: Tonya Jones**
 - **Abstain: None**
 - **Motion Passes**

5. Executive Director Update

- LIHEAP Action Day, February 23 – Link to [Data Sheet](#)
 - Smashing records; never hit 300 attendees before
 - Review of comments from the AA system for virtual action day
 - Next year adjustment suggestions: 15-minute meetings need to be longer
 - Discussion of the day’s successes; Katrina: NEAUC spent \$25k and still had a heavy workload; workload not reduced, only changed; tool valuable for meetings, however
- All Parties Letter
 - 788 signatures right now; goal is 1000
 - Florida, California, Mass in the lead; a little over 800 signatures last year; time b/c President’s budget not expected until march/April, please share and sign
- Elections Process 2022
 - Check listing- 10 folks terming out, none have to take a break; eligible for another 3 year term; do not have to take a 1 year break
 - For those terming out, last meeting will be right before the conference
 - Remaining board members with terms not expiring 26
 - Kim Campbell – chair (nominations committee). The committee should schedule a call within the next couple of weeks to discuss documentation provided by Katrina
 - Board members to conduct individual outreach for future nominations

6. Other Business

- Update Edward Gingold – Susie speaking with Ed each day; frequently mentioning NEAUC Board and what’s happening
 - Edward recommend we reach out to colleges local to New Orleans for additional conference content
- Tanya Jones – articles with NBC (published) and WSJ regarding NEUAC and LIHEAP; not sure of publication date
- Link: <https://www.poynter.org/reporting-editing/2022/an-unusual-number-of-u-s-households-are-behind-on-utility-bills/>
- Haly Laasme – Department of Female Energy Leaders – currently interviewed – NEAUC mentioned

7. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the NEAUC Spring 2022 board meeting
 - 1st: Chere Coleman
 - 2nd: Bonne Temme
- Meeting adjourned at 3:28 PM.