

neuac

NATIONAL ENERGY & UTILITY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

Board of Directors Orientation 2024-2025

August 21, 2024



Meeting Expectations

1. **We are all equal.** In the room, at this time, each of us – regardless of position – are welcome and encouraged to participate.
2. (“WAIT” – Why am I talking? Why aren’t I talking?) We will tap into the wisdom of the group, not focus on the opinions of individuals. **No single person(s) shall dominate the conversation. Monitor your own air time.**
3. **Be open and respectful.** We will seek first to understand and give full consideration to new ideas, approaches and creative processes. We will question our own assumptions and those of our colleagues in order to think creatively. We will not fixate on past practices and will instead be flexible to change or new ideas.
4. **Speak from your own experience.** We will listen to each other and suspend judgments. We will respect all kinds of knowledge and value the full spectrum of knowledge in attendance; use “I” statements and resist expressing assumptions about the experience of others or asking others to speak on behalf of a group.
5. **Be present and listen deeply.** Our conversation is not about convincing each other, but rather about listening and providing your full attention to everything and everyone and then deciding what it all means.

Meeting Expectations

6. **Final decisions are final.** Each of us will be heard, but that doesn't mean each of us will get what we want. It's okay to disagree. When issues are important and people care, they argue, but once we decide, each of us will accept and respect the organization's decisions.
7. If we notice something of concern during a meeting, we have an obligation to speak up. If you choose not to provide input on decisions, it will be assumed that parties are amenable to decisions made. **Discussion happens during meetings, not before or after.**
8. **Stay on track.** We agree to focus on the meeting agenda and work diligently to stay on track.
9. **Be conscious of intent vs. impact.** The things we say or do may have a negative impact on others, despite our intent. Be accountable for the impact of your actions and words.
10. **Be aware of power dynamics.** Notice how you might be subconsciously using your power or privilege and hold awareness of histories of injustice.
11. **Avoid jargon, acronyms, and industry language.** Use inclusive language that is accessible to people with varying sector knowledge.

Agenda

- Introductions
- Mission, History of NEUAC
 - NFFN, NLIEC
- Signature Events
 - Conference, LIHEAP Action Day
- Policy and Advocacy
- Education and Awareness
 - Social Media
- Board Member Responsibilities
- Your Questions/Feedback



Introductions

■ Roll Call

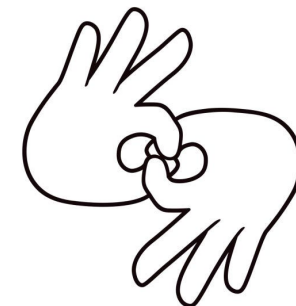
- Name
- Title
- State
- Organization



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¡HOLA!



What is your special talent?

Upcoming Events

September 18, 2024

NEUAC Conference Planning Meeting - Kickoff the planning for the 2025 NEUAC Conference

- Board members and local nonprofit and utility stakeholders in North Carolina and the SE Region

September 19, 2024

NEUAC Fall Board of Directors Meeting – Retreat activities featuring professional leadership assessment and evaluation, generational differences, and strategic planning by committee

Upcoming Events

12/4/24	Winter Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual
3/3/25	Spring Board of Directors Meetings	Washington, DC
3/4-5/25	State Team Meetings & LIHEAP Action Day	Washington, DC
6/2/25	Summer Board of Directors Meeting	Charlotte, NC
6/2/25	NEUAC Preconference Sessions	Charlotte, NC
6/3-5/25	NEUAC Annual Conference	Charlotte, NC
9/30/25	Conference Planning Kick-off	Seattle, WA
10/1/25	Fall Board of Directors Meeting	Seattle, WA

Board Meeting Annual Overview

- **Spring** Board of Directors Meeting
 - With LIHEAP Action Day
- **Summer** Board of Directors Meeting
 - With Annual Conference
- **Fall** Board of Directors Meeting
 - With Conference Planning Meeting
- **Winter** Board of Directors Meeting
 - Virtual, or
 - Onsite in Washington DC, special retreats or partner collaborations



NEUAC Mission

The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) is a broad-based coalition of diverse members dedicated to heightening awareness of the energy and utility affordability needs of vulnerable households, fostering public-private partnerships, and engaging in advocacy, education, and other activities to help address these needs.

Take Action. End Energy Poverty.

Our vision is for all people to have access to the energy and utility resources they need to live in a safe and healthy way. Goals:

- To increase awareness and understanding of the nature and magnitude of income-constrained energy problems among the various publics
- To formulate and advance income-constrained energy policy through compilation, analysis and dissemination of data and information
- To provide information and technical assistance in the creation and development of fuel funds
- To promote the development of statewide and regional fuel funds

Currently located in the DuPont Circle neighborhood of Washington D.C., NEUAC staff work with our committed members to advance our mission

NEUAC – A Look Back in Time

- National Fuel Fund Network (NFFN) formed in 1984 and incorporated in 1987
 - Mission: Bring together utilities, non-profits, trade associations and fuel funds; establish a national network
 - Membership-based organization of nearly 300 members



History of NEUAC – Sister Pat Kelley

Missouri EnergyCare spurred the creation of the National Fuel Funds Network and later the National Energy & Utility Affordability Coalition, with a mission to advocate for energy assistance.

Sister Pat Kelley, a member of the Sisters of Charity Order, is credited as the founder of the national effort to advocate for energy assistance.

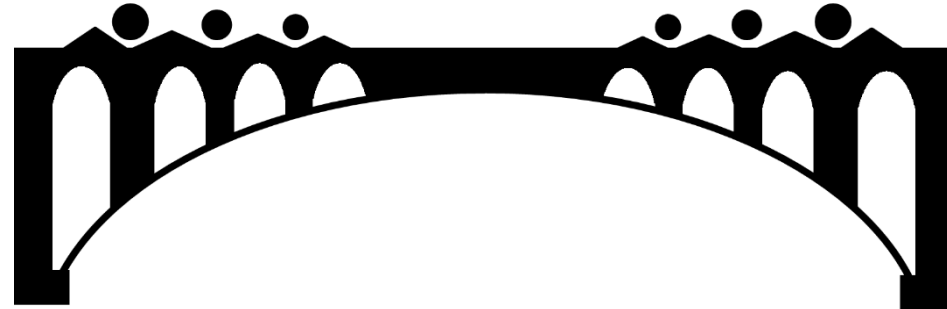


NEUAC honors the legacy of Sister Pat Kelley by bestowing an annual award in her honor to a person with exemplary achievement in furthering NEUAC's objectives of increasing public awareness of low-income energy problems, advancing energy assistance policy, and promoting charitable energy assistance.

NEUAC History, Continued

- National Low Income Energy Consortium (NLIEC) was formed in 1986.

Mission: Reflect diverse interests with a singular purpose embodied in the theme **“Building Bridges”**



Board Structure: 21 organizations including utilities, nonprofits, and trade associations focused on energy poverty

History of NEUAC – Victorine Q. Adams

Victorine Quille Adams was a public leader and advocate who played a key role in energy affordability.

While serving on city council in Baltimore, MD, a couple in her district froze to death in their own home.

In 1979, Ms. Adams partnered with BG&E to establish the Baltimore Fuel Fund to help local families with their heating bills.

Today, it is known as the Maryland Fuel Fund.



“Mother of Energy Equity”

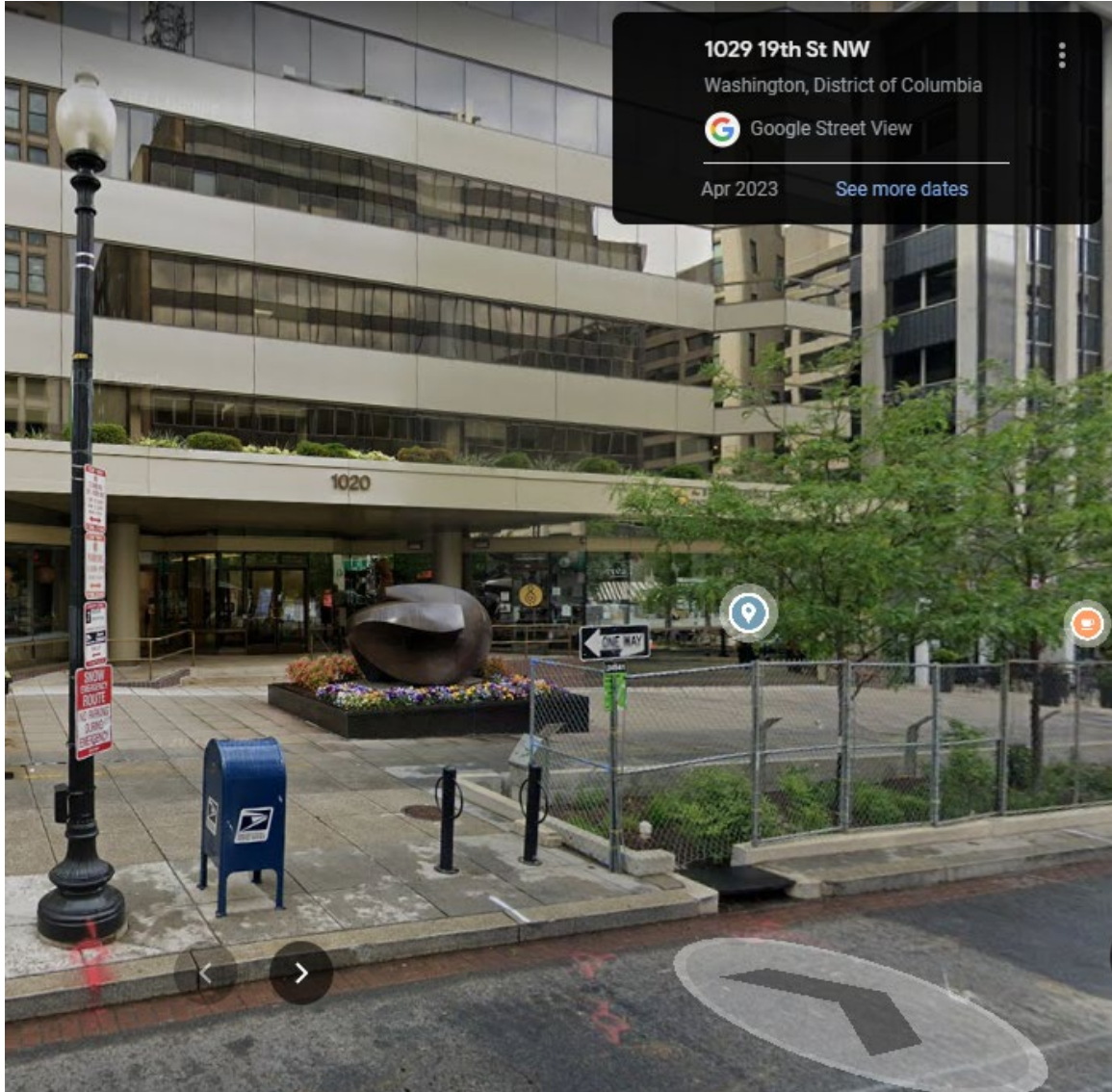
NEUAC honors the legacy of Ms. Adams annually with an award to a non-profit organization that displays an innovative spirit towards raising public awareness and generating financial aid for people in need of energy assistance.

NEUAC Today

- 2014 Merger of NFFN and NLIEC resulted in NEUAC, a broad-based coalition of diverse member organizations and individuals
 - Today, NEUAC is 278 members and growing



Contact Information



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Affordability Coalition**

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Board Organization

- Board Organization
 - Governance Board - 35 members
 - Advisory Board - 42 members
 - Ex-Officio Board - 7 members
- Opportunities for involvement
 - Committees
 - LIHEAP Action Day, Advocacy
 - Annual Conference, Education



NEUAC Committees



- *Executive Committee – Officers*
- Conference Planning
- Public Policy and Advocacy
- Finance/Audit
- Membership/Fundraising
- Nominations
- Credentials and Elections

AD HOC

- Site Selection
- Awards
- Bylaws
- JEDI-B

Are you thinking...

- Where can I check on my board status?
- Where are the board meeting materials?
- Should I read the bylaws? Where can I find those?
- When is the next board meeting?
- Who are the other board members and how do I reach them?
- What region am I in?

<https://neuac.org/insider/>

2024-2025 NEUAC Governance Board Officers

President: Kim Campbell Hailey, Vistra

1st Vice President: Keelie Andringa, MVCAP

2nd Vice President: Michael J. Bradford, Salvation Army

Secretary: Michael Bell, Washington Gas

Treasurer: Marietta Doney, Oregon Energy Fund

Governance Board - Bylaws

NEUAC shall establish a Governance Board comprised of **nonprofit and utility members of NEUAC in good standing.**

The Governance Board of NEUAC shall have as a common interest a concern in the **utility affordability needs of limited income consumers** and a **commitment to educate themselves and others as to potential resolutions of the problems faced by such persons**, and will support the mission of NEUAC.

The Governance Board has a **duty of undivided loyalty to the mission of NEUAC** including avoidance of self-interest, protection of property and assets, and obedience to these bylaws.

The purpose of the Governance Board shall be to **make decisions on fiduciary, governance, and other important matters** related to the organization and to provide guidance and support to the staff of the NEUAC.

Governance Board - Bylaws

At a minimum the following matters should be addressed and/or voted upon by the Governance Board:

- a. Policy decisions
- b. Annual budget
- c. Organizational strategic plan
- d. Any legal action
- e. Assumption of a major new financial risk or obligation (e.g. mortgage or lease)
- f. Hiring, annual review, or dismissal of an executive director
- g. New Ex-Officio board members
- h. Revocation of membership
- i. Removal of an Officer

Governance Board - Bylaws

Term Limits

- Up to two, three-year terms on Governance Board
- One year required break in service
 - Advisory Board during this time is allowable

Composition of Members on Governance Board

- Limited to no more than 35
- Should be odd
- Should have one more nonprofit representative than utility
- Should broadly represent the membership's interests and geographic regions of the country

Advisory Board - Bylaws

NEUAC shall establish an Advisory Board comprised of members in good standing that are not currently serving on the Governance Board and support the mission of NEUAC.

The purpose of the Advisory Board shall be to provide additional expertise to NEUAC, serve on certain committees, volunteer at events, and perform other supportive functions.



Ex-Officio Board - Bylaws



NEUAC shall establish an Ex-Officio Board representing organizations that have national impact, interest, and/or expertise on the issue of utility affordability, and support the mission of NEUAC.

The purpose of the Ex-Officio Board shall be to offer expertise, long-term guidance, and broad perspective on issues related to utility affordability.

There is no term limit for Ex-Officio board members.



LIHEAP Action Day & LIHEAP Action Month

March 3, 2025 – Board Meeting

March 4, 2025 – State Team Meetings & Policy Update

March 5, 2025 – LIHEAP Action Day



Protect
LIHEAP

LIHEAP protects seniors.
41,000 people aged 65+ were lifted out of poverty in 2021 because of energy assistance programs, including LIHEAP.

Tell Congress to #ProtectLIHEAP to help end energy poverty.

AUGUST IS LIHEAP ACTION MONTH.
Spread the word. Share this post.

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, SUPPLEMENTAL POVERTY MEASURE, 2021

Protect
LIHEAP

LIHEAP Action Month is August

A time to visit with federal representatives during the August recess and provide community outreach and education on utility assistance.



Annual Conference Charlotte, NC

June 2, 2025 – Board Meeting

June 2, 2025 – Preconference

June 3-5, 2025 – Conference



**See you in Charlotte,
North Carolina!
June 2-5**



Expectations of Board Members

- Support the mission and vision of the organization
- Attend at least two in-person board meetings annually
- Serve on at least one committee
- Be an ambassador for NEUAC in your networks
- Set and uphold policies, procedures, and ethical standards of organization
- Attend events, encourage others to do so
- Support NEUAC financially by paying dues on time and sponsoring the organization, if possible
- Help fundraise, build membership and sponsorship
- Work for the betterment of the organization and those eligible for utility assistance services

Board Member Responsibilities

- **DUTY OF CARE:** Ensure prudent use of all assets, including facility, people, and good will; provide oversight for all activities that advance the nonprofit's effectiveness and sustainability.
- **DUTY OF LOYALTY:** Make decisions in the best interest of the nonprofit corporation; not in his or her self-interest or his or her company's self interest.
- **DUTY OF OBEDIENCE:** Ensure that the nonprofit obeys applicable laws and acts in accordance with ethical practices; that the nonprofit adheres to its stated mission, and that its activities advance that mission.

Fiduciary Responsibilities



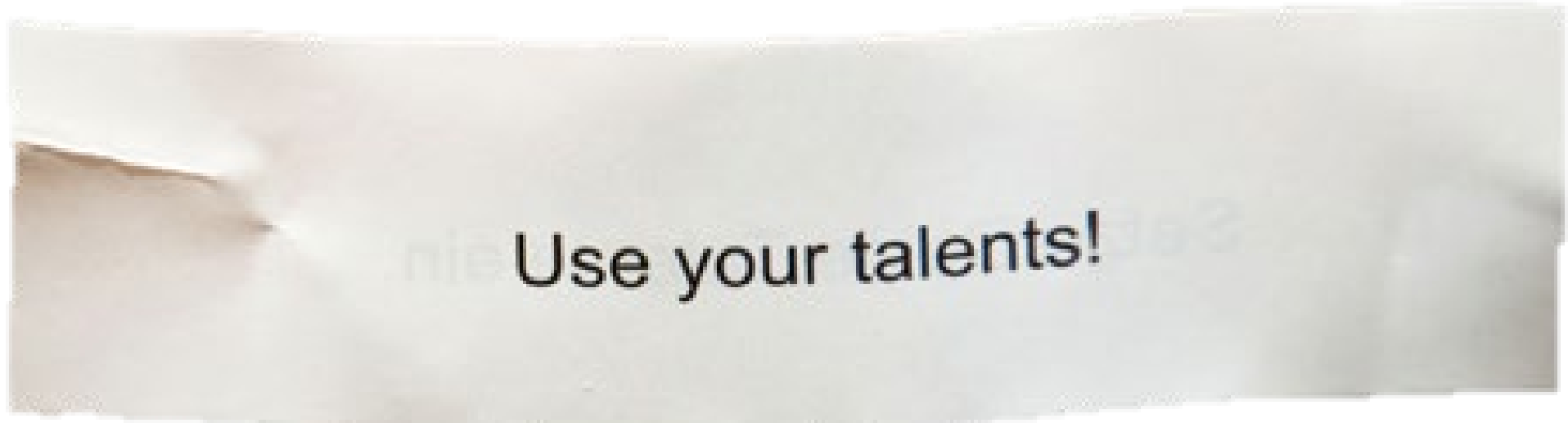
- Read, understand, and approve the financial reports, annual budget, audit
- Review and approve the IRS Form 990
- Understand how the conference and other activities tie to the mission and the financials, as well as the organization's impact

Considering support for policies

- Does the policy support and **align with the mission** of NEUAC?
- Is the policy **free of conflicts of interest** and/or **protective of NEUAC's integrity** as an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization?
- Does the policy **positively affect** the overwhelming majority of **NEUAC member organizations**?
- Is the request **unlikely to be especially detrimental** to any specific NEUAC member organization or group of member organizations?
- Will the request **positively affect** the overwhelming majority of **LIHEAP-eligible and vulnerable households** nationally, including those in tribes and territories?
- **Are the overall benefits of the request to LIHEAP-eligible and vulnerable households enough to justify any potential detriment to specific members?**
- Is the request **fuel-neutral**, e.g. does it demonstrate favor for one fuel or energy type compared to another?

You are uniquely suited for this role.

Use your special gifts to help NEUAC grow
and achieve our mission for utility
affordability.



Social Media

- **X/Twitter**

@theNEUAC, #LIHEAP, #FuelFunds,
#LIHEAPAction #NEUACHighFive
#ProtectLIHEAP

- **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/neuaccoalition>



**Thank you for your service to NEUAC and
those in need of energy assistance.**

neuac

NATIONAL ENERGY & UTILITY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

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National Energy & Utility

Affordability Coalition

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