

## 2025 NEUAC Spring Board of Directors Meeting

**Date: 3/3/2025**

**Time: 1:00 p.m.**

**Location:** American Gas Association, Washington DC

**Attendees:** Alexandra Balbuena Alleyne, Alicia Hinojosa, Allison Poe, Andrea Schroer, Angie Sterner, Britton Gabel, Carolyn Perry, Chris Osbon, Danielle Olaya, Danielle Wright, Diana Marin, Diedra Howard, Elizabeth Paulson, Gabe Terry, Gerri Drummond, Häly Laasme, Jackie Castrellon, Jennifer Rodriguez, Jesse Hernandez, John Rich, Josh St.Pierre, Keelie Andringa, Kelly Caplan, Kevin Alexander, Kevin McGrath, Kim Campbell Hailey, Laura Bayona, Liz Berube, Marcela Lenox, Maria Delaplain, Marian Martin, Marietta Doney, Michelle Lehman, Mike Bradford, Mindy Browning, Misty Velasquez, Olivia Wein, Paridhi Kapadia, Patricia Johnson, Rebecca Washington, Rhoshawndra Carnes, Rosa Pagnillo-Lopez, Sakinah Howard, Sam Owen, Sandra Diggs-Miller, Shannon Stahley, Shaylee Stokes, Star Walker, Stephenie Arnold, Tony Hunt, Katrina Metzler, Erin Mao, Annie Doran, guest: Karen Harbert

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **1. Call to Order – Kim Campbell Hailey, Board President**

- Time: 1:02 p.m., quorum obtained
- Meeting called to order by: Kim Campbell Hailey

#### **Welcome: President and CEO of AGA: Karen Harbert**

- Introductions and safety announcements

#### **2. Approve minutes of prior meetings (9/19/2024, 12/4/2024)**

- Motion to approve:
  - Motioned by: Elizabeth Paulson
  - Second: Michelle Lehman
  - Motion approved

#### **3. Old Business**

##### **Committee Reports**

##### **a. Finance: Marietta Doney**

- Presented financials through Dec 31, 2024.
- NEUAC remains in a good place financially.
- Expenses have increased compared to revenue. Therefore, events are being managed closely to reduce costs, and registration revenue also addressed (LIHEAP Action Day limited to two registrations).
- Vote to accept financial report:  
Motion to approve:
  - Motioned by: John Rich
  - Second: Marietta Doney
  - Motion approved

##### **b. Conference: Kim Campbell Hailey, Keelie Andringa, Frank Rapley, Tanya Jones**

- Submissions to the Request for Presentations have been received/reviewed.
- Registration opens March 17.
- Logo: "Revved Up"
- Highlights presented, which will be part of the registration information, including:
  - Emotional support dogs – thanks to additional sponsors.

- North Davidson (NoDa) Night activity, including public transportation tickets + round-up donation to Sister Pat Kelley scholarship fund
- Charlotte Knights reception/baseball game

**c. Membership & Fundraising:** Keelie Andringa, Mike Bradford

- 2025 member count at 257, 90% of 285 goal, with 83% retention rate
- Slight downturn down appears due to funding cuts at member organizations
- Sponsorship are strong. \$483,500 pledged/received, at 101% of \$480,000 goal.
- Recommend adding the National Energy & Fuels Institute (NEFI) as a member of the Ex-Officio Board.

Motion to approve:

- Motioned by: John Rich
- Second: Star Walker
- Motion approved

**d. Public Policy & Advocacy:** Kate Brownlee, Allison Poe

- Congress very busy with confirmation hearings, reconciliation of tax bills.
- Appropriations:
  - 2025 not yet appropriated, operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) until March 14. Intent of extension of CR until Sep 30 to prevent government shutdown, which will impact LIHEAP.
  - 10% of funds are still being held.
  - If appropriations isn't done by April, there is a chance that every program loses 1%, but there is no clarity on this.
- There haven't been any talks about changes in HHS.
- House and Senate have great LIHEAP champions.
- LIHEAP Action Day will be a great way to promote the program to leadership.
  - Allison recommends that LIHEAP Action Day messaging focus on asking for maximum funding allowed under regular appropriations.
- Katrina asked if Congress needs to pass a budget for 2025 before moving on 2026 appropriations.
  - There is no clarity on this, which puts at risk the 10% that hasn't been released.
  - Appropriations Committees will still work on 2026 even though there is no negotiation on the 2025 budget.
- Katrina noted that some states have already spent through 2025 funding. The balance of money pending reimbursement to states is not currently in jeopardy
- Per Britton Gabel, cooling programs may be challenged because states already spent their funds. This information, with data, should be provided to legislators.
- Is there any concern with the president's budget proposal or other possibilities of freezing the program?
  - There is enough bipartisan support for LIHEAP, which makes LIHEAP safer than other programs.
- Tony Hunt asked how confident are we about the environment?
  - Allison reiterated that the program has a lot of support behind the scenes, and advocacy is effective to help clarify the need for this program.

## 2025 NEUAC Spring Board of Directors Meeting

- Diana Marin asked if there is a CR extended until Sep 30, will agencies receive the 10% pending?
  - Allison anticipated that 10% can only be released when a budget is approved.
- LIHEAP Action Day 2025:
  - Registration: 250 people
  - 1,263 signatures to All Parties Letters to-date
  - Discussion around having individuals sign the letter, instead of only organizations. This would open the possibility to have customers to tell stories about the impact of LIHEAP.
- **LIHEAP Action Day 2026:** February 2-4 at Hyatt Regency: 400 New Jersey Ave NW. Washington, D.C. 20001.

### e. JEDI: Katrina Metzler

- Due to the federal impacts, JEDI committee will be paused until further notice.

### f. Conference Site Selection

- Kim Campbell Hailey announced 2027 selection, and reviewed future schedule:
  - 2025 June 2-5 Charlotte, North Carolina
  - 2026 May 18-21 Seattle, Washington
  - 2027 June 6-9 San Antonio, Texas
  - 2028 TBA
- Katrina asked if the 2028 conference location should be booked soon
  - Elizabeth Paulson and Andrea Schroer recommended to wait due to the costs that may be incurred for cancelling.
  - The final deadline to schedule 2028 would be by the 2026 conference, to make sure that we have a good hotel/venue.
  - Katrina recommended that we do a site visit after the December board meeting to make the decision or reevaluate.
  - Jesse Hernandez asked about the possibility of merging LIHEAP Action Day and Conference.
    - Discussion: Some nonprofit or governmental members wouldn't have availability to attend a Conference in February due to LIHEAP seasonality, but LIHEAP Action Day needs to be before March due to appropriations timeline.

### g. Executive Committee

- Personnel: What would it take to hire a third full-time employee at NEUAC?
  - Katrina noted that interns are great, but they leave once they learn the job. Training time is also an investment by staff.
    - While NEUAC has reserve funds, we want to routinely have excess at the end of the year to cover any new labor expenses. Are there options to charge more on sponsorship or memberships to cover the funds for this person?
  - Andrea Schroer: Depending on the role, e.g., if for advocacy, could there be a shared person between some of the national organizations?
  - Elizabeth Paulson: Possibility to bring in retirees/NEUAC alumni support.

- Britton Gabel: Companies may be willing to loan skilled employees to support the work.
- Katrina: NEUAC will explore possibilities, and may convene a group of 3 or 4 people to come up with a plan.

#### **4. New Business:**

##### **a. Executive Director's report- Katrina Metzler**

- AI Policy: Previously, many people join meetings to take notes during NEUAC updates. But there is a concern on security and confidentiality. Staff prepared a draft AI policy, which was reviewed by an attorney, to discourage use of outside AI tools. The proposal is for NEUAC to take notes and share when requested. Motion to approve the policy as presented:
  - Motioned by: Tony Hunt
  - Second: Kevin McGrath
  - Motion approved
- Politico Pro: Secured a \$4k discount on subscription covering three people. Motion to approve:
  - Motioned by: Michelle Lehman
  - Second: Laura Bayona
  - Motion approved
- Annual report: To be presented after LIHEAP Action Day.
- Changes in U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services, Office of Community Services:
  - Division lead and staff person have left.
  - During LIHEAP Action Day, appropriations is usually the first concern, but there will also be focus on operations to make sure that the program is not impacted (formula, contracts, guidelines).
- Utility Summit proposed for late summer or fall. Looking for city/utility to host.
  - Proposal to do it in Seattle alongside the fall board meeting.
- 2025 board elections:
  - Nominations committee process and timeline presented.
- Katrina's recent media and engagement include:
  - Politico, Bloomberg, Austin Energy, NEADA, NASCSP, IUCX, Maryland CAAs, SCACAP, GA Power, Senator Markey's office.

#### **5. Update from Federal Partners:**

##### **a. Andrea Schroer- NASCSP**

- NASCSP provided handouts weatherization and energy insecurity for LIHEAP Action Day. Weatherization saves about 20% on utility bills.
- Weatherization bill has bipartisan support in the House. HR1355, which would help enhance the program, authorize until 2030, and make weatherization readiness more permanent.
- NASCSP Annual Conference to be held in Sept.

#### **6. Motion to Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn requested by Kim Campbell Hailey
  - Motioned by: John Rich
  - Second: Diedra Howard
  - Motion approved