

## NEUAC Board of Directors Summer Meeting

**Date:** 6/2/2025

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Location:** The Westin Charlotte – Charlotte, North Carolina

**Attendees:** Alexandra Balbuena Alleyne, Amanda Shelton, Andrea Schroer, Andrew Bennett, Andrew Binegar, Angela Sterner, Anne Armstrong, Anthony Hunt, Ben Jackson, Bree Boyd, Britton Gabel, Camille Moore, Candace Poudrier, Cassandra Lovejoy, Chris Osbon, Christine Beatty, Cristiano Quijano, Danielle Olaya, Danielle Wright, Debbie Paton, Diana Marin, Diedra Howard, Dorann Brown, Douglas Bennett, Elizabeth Moore, Elizabeth Paulson, Erin Jeffries, Gabe Terry, Gary Swan, Gerri Drummond, Glenis Scott, Haly Laasme-McQuilkin, Jackie Castrellon, Jennifer Rodriguez, Jesse Hernandez, John Rich, Kate Brownlee, Kathy Kerr, Kathryn Zerfuss, Kelly Caplan, Kevin Alexander, Kevin McGrath, Kim Campbell Hailey, Latoya Butler, Laura Bayona, Laura Jacobs, Leslie Diaz Villavicencio, Lilia Diaz, Liz Berube, Marcela Lenox, Maria Delaplain, Maria Hopps, Marian Martin, Marietta Doney, Mia Harnos, Michael Bradford, Michelle Lehman, Micki Halligan, Mike Turaj, Mindy Browning, Misty Velasquez, Monica West, Olivia Wein, Paridhi Kapadia, Patricia Johnson, Pauli Springer, Sakinah Howard, Sandra Miller, Scott Alan Davis, Shannon Stahley, Shaylee Stokes, Star Walker, Stephenie Arnold, Tara Porter, Theresa Kullen, Tiffany Gilstrap, Todd Berreman, Tony Hunt

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **1. Call to Order – Establish of Quorum:** Kim Campbell Hailey

- Time: 9:32am
- Quorum obtained

#### **2. Approve minutes of prior meeting (3/3/2025)**

##### **Motion to approve:**

- Motioned by: Micki Halligan
- Second: Glenis Scott
- Motion approved

#### **3. Committee reports:**

##### **a. Credential and Elections:** Gary Swan

1. Results of 2025 Governance Board election: Introductions of new members
2. Vote: 2025-2026 Advisory Board members

##### **Motion to approve Advisory Board slate** as provided in the meeting materials:

- Motioned by: John Rich
- Second: Latoya Butler
- Motion approved

3. Vote: 2025-2026 Officers election

##### **Motion to approve Executive Committee officers slate** as follows:

President: Mike Bradford, The Salvation Army National Headquarters

First Vice President: Britton Gabel, Omaha Public Power District

Second Vice President: John Rich, Mid America Assistance Coalition

Treasurer: Marietta Doney, Oregon Energy Fund

Secretary: Laura Bayona, Florida Power & Light

- Motioned by: Elizabeth Paulson
- Second: Star Walker
- Motion approved

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4. Vote for Parliamentarian of candidates nominated from the floor (results announced later in the meeting):
  - Kevin Alexander, Duke Energy
  - Liz Berube, Citizens for Citizens
  - Alexandra Balbuena Alleyne, Washington Gas
- b. **Finance:** Marietta Doney
  - Staff and MSI managed the conference budget for great savings this year, including bidding A/V through an RFP that saved about \$50k. The conference met its minimum attendees goal, which helped to nearly break even on budget.
  - During this difficult year for our network, membership and sponsorship contributions have increased.
  - NEUAC is doing well financially. Compared to 2024, Total Assets increased, Total Liabilities decreased, and Total Equity increased.
  - Vote to accept financial report:  
**Motion to accept financial report:**
    - Motioned by: Andrew Binegar
    - Second: Alexandra Balbuena Alleyne
    - Motion approved
- c. **Conference:** Kim Campbell Hailey, Elizabeth Moore
  - 2025 Conference highlights:
    - Total attendees, including onsite registrations: 652
      - Near-final registration counts by organization type: Nonprofits 308, Government 105, Tribe 41, Utility 153, Corporation 35
    - Important plenary speakers:
      - Professor and author Diana Hernandez
      - Dialogue with the Feds (HHS staff joining remotely)
    - Annual membership meeting to feature policy update to all members.
    - Baseball event and NoDa Night networking opportunity have tickets available
  - Call for Seattle Conference Co-Chairs: Katrina Metzler
- d. **Membership/Fundraising:** Mike Bradford
  - NEUAC's board has been instrumental to increase the membership and fundraising of the organization.
  - Exceeded 2025 goals:
    - \$513k sponsorships raised, compared to goal of \$490k. Includes 4 new sponsors, 3 returning after a lapse, and 10 that increased amounts vs. 2024.
    - Membership reached 296 members, compared to goal of 285, with 90% retention rate and 30 new members.
  - Ideas were discussed to help increase membership and maintain retention.
- e. **Public Policy & Advocacy:** Kate Brownlee and Ben Jackson
  - April 1st saw staffing cuts in HHS, including the LIHEAP team. Nonetheless, HHS was able to release balance 10% of FY25 funding in April.
  - President's "skinny budget" proposed LIHEAP to be eliminated.
  - NEUAC and partners continue to engage with Congress and educate staff and Members on LIHEAP.

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- House and Senate Appropriations Committees activity:
  - NEUAC, EEI and AGA submitted language to the committees. NEUAC will submit testimony for an upcoming Senate Appropriations meeting.
  - LIHEAP was mentioned several times in the three hearings of both Senate and House with HHS, reflecting our network's effective advocacy. JFK, Jr. stated support to release LIHEAP funding if it is appropriated by Congress.
  - Appropriations meetings have also been encouraging. They continue to reference the bipartisan support, and don't expect budget to be eliminated, but do anticipate cuts to the program.
  - Markups forthcoming: House Subcommittee July 21st and full committee July 24, when we first expect to see specific funding figures and language.
- Questions/Comments:
  - Katrina visited JEA in Florida to provide a policy update and coordinate about congressional committees' support to LIHEAP.
  - AGA and EEI have set up meetings for Katrina to provide education and advocacy in both House and Senate offices.
  - Reconciliation is not expected to have a high impact on LIHEAP. LIHEAP is a discretionary program, and reconciliation affects non-discretionary spending.

### f. **Executive Committee:** Kim Campbell Hailey

- Vote: Decisions to be ratified by full board
  1. Contract: Hyatt Regency Washington – 2026 LIHEAP Action Day hotel
  2. Contract: Tech Factory – A/V vendor for 2025 Conference
  3. Replacement of NEUAC Board First VP (through 6/2/2025 board meeting): John Rich was appointed to the position in replacement of Keelie Gustin
  4. Testimony letter to Senate HELP Committee
  5. Testimony letter to House Appropriations Labor HHS Subcommittee
  6. 2025 NEUAC Special Achievement Awards
  7. Katrina Metzler annual review

### **Motion to ratify the decisions of the Executive Committee:**

- Motioned by: Tony Hunt
- Second: Glenis Scott
- Motion approved

### 4. **Executive Director's report:** Katrina Metzler

- 2024 Annual Report overview
- Board committees: Conference Planning, Finance & Audit, Membership & Fundraising, Nominating, Public Policy & Advocacy, Site Selection
  - Board president is responsible to appoint committee chairs.
  - Need volunteers particularly for Seattle conference planning
- Required Annual Forms:
  - Board Member Agreement
  - Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Acknowledgment
  - Board Composition form
  - Committee (and chair interest) sign ups
- Utility Summit options
  - Co-locate with Seattle Conference planning meetings: Sep 30<sup>th</sup> to Oct 1<sup>st</sup>

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- Co-locate with board meeting in Washington D.C: Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Discussion:
  - AGA offer to host the event in D.C.
  - Co-locating with Seattle meetings may present a schedule conflict.
  - AABE hosting a Dec symposium in D.C., with potential for collaboration.
  - The event is important due to the price increases due to materials
  - D.C. option facilitates federal affairs staff to attend, along with one operations/customer service team representative.
  - Potential topics to discuss:
    - Helping legislators make a connection between fuel and electricity.
    - Impact to low income customers from energy increases due to AI
    - Housing eviction and Energy assistance
  - For tribes that aren't federally recognized, if LIHEAP goes away, there will not be assistance to heat homes.
  - Municipal utilities should be part of the conversation about the work that needs to be done, and how can they be part of the conversation
- Utility representatives shared about their advocacy to protect the programs.
  - Community Action Agencies recommended that utilities partner with the CAA State Associations for advocacy. CSGB should also be discussed.
- NEUAC Senior Fellows / Alumni:
  - Consider gathering retirees to add support when contracted services needed.
  - Discussion:
    - This is an interim solution until NEUAC is in a position to hire an FTE.
    - Good idea financially to access experience in the field and mentorship.
    - Is there a possibility to extend to previous members who are not retired?
    - Proposed name: VOLT: Volunteers Offering Leadership Talent
    - Alumni should not be board members, to avoid conflict of interest.
- Resource Directory updates
- Media Engagement overview

### 5. Updates from federal partners:

- Andrea Schroer of NASCSP reported that WAP 2025 plans have not yet been approved by DOE. At least 12 of the 26 WAP staff at DOE accepted the Deferred Resignation Program and are no longer employed. There is a new administrative review process. NASCSP is working with subrecipients on how to bridge funding.

### 6. Parliamentarian tallied vote results: Liz Berube

#### Motion to accept Liz Berube as parliamentarian:

- Motioned by: John Rich
- Second: Alexandra Balbuena Alleyne
- Motion approved

### 7. Motion to Adjourn

- Motioned by: John Rich
- Second: Glenis Scott
- Motion approved