NEUAC Fall Board of Directors Meeting
October 1, 2025, | 9:00 AM PT
Hyatt Regency Seattle- 808 Howell St, Seattle, WA

Attendees:
Stephenie Arnold, Laura Bayona, Andrew Bennett, Michael Bradford, Mindy Browning, Kimberly Burton, Latoya Butler, Kim Campbell, David Carroll, Scott Alan Davis, Sandra Diggs-Miller, Marietta Doney, Annie Doran, Liam Dotson, Gerri Drummond, Britton Gabel, Tiffany Gilstrap, Mia Harnos, Jesse Hernandez, Maria Hopps, Diedra Howard, Ben Jackson, Erin Jeffries, Patricia Johnson, Michelle Lehman, Erin Mao, Katrina Metlzer, Tasha Moore, Charles Moreland, Shama Mounzer, Chris Osbon, Rosa Pagnillo-Lopez, Debbie Paton, John Rich, Glenis Scott, Raven Simmons, Larry Snook, Jason Sparks, Pauli Springer, Shannon Stahley, Shalyee Stokes, Shelly Stroessnor, Gary Swan, Gabe Terry, Misty Velasquez, Star Walker, Olivia Wein

1. Call to Order / Establishment of Quorum at 9:21 AM: Michael Bradford
    - Welcome new board members
    - Introduce Co-Chairs of each committee
        - Need volunteers to co-chair membership and fundraising committee.
        - Any board member can serve in the advisory or governance.
        - Meeting expectations reviewed

2. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting (6/2/2025)
    - Motion to approve minutes: Michelle Lehman
    - Second: Gary Swan
    - Motion approved

3. Committee Reports Michael Bradford

a. Finance - Marietta Doney
    - Revenue is down compared to 2024, however expenses have been managed carefully in 2025 to reduce this impact.
    - Whereas net revenue was negative in 2024 (largely due to high expenses on the conference in Chicago), it is now positive in 2025 (conference in Charlotte).
    - Even with expenditures on conference, NEUAC is in a good position with regard to equity.
    - The audit of NEUAC's 2024 financials was completed and was a clean audit. It is presented for a vote of acceptance today, along with the draft IRS form 990.
        1. Vote: Accept August financials report
            - Motion to accept financials report: John Rich
            - Second: Glenis Scott
            - Motion approved
        2. Vote: Accept FY2024 audit
            - Motion to accept FY2-24 audit: John Rich
            - Second: Glenis Scott
            - Motion approved
        3. Vote: Approve FY2024 IRS Form 990 for filing
            - Motion to approve FY2024 IRS form 990 for filing: John Rich
            - Second: Glenis Scott
            - Motion approved
    - FY2026 budget considerations:
        - Katrina noted considerations affecting prior and 2026 budgets:
            - Consideration given to the conference paying for itself. The event should

either break even or make money, if possible.
        - Sponsors needed for events that would reduce the costs to NEUAC
        - After Chicago's cost of AV, in North Carolina a new company was hired which reduced the costs significantly to near-break even instead of losing.
    - Board members discussed the following considerations:
        - Recommendation to engage Seattle utilities to help coordinate conference.
        - Request for earlier/better communication on sponsorship options. Having the (event) costs details upfront would be good for Katrina to share with the utilities, so utilities would be able to block budget for this.
        - Travel costs are increasing due to the number of presentations Katrina is attending to engage other members. Recommendation that Katrina prioritize speaking events for which her travel is paid.
        - Expectation for an increase in advocacy related efforts to protect LIHEAP.
        - NEUAC currently has about $800k in outstanding contracts in hotels, and over $800k in reserves. Due to uncertainty with LIHEAP program funding, NEUAC is holding on making commitments for 2027. The team is looking for hotels that can offer flexibility on termination penalty.
        - Washington CAAs are doing grassroot efforts to increase the engagement of the local agencies for the conference.
        - Recommendation to consider increasing cost of membership for utilities.

b. <u>Conference</u> Shaylee Stokes, Latoya Butler, Glenis Scott, Kim Campbell
    - Seattle conference – Washington team's effort to help come up with ideas has a tremendous impact to this conference.
    - Conference cost is important factor for attendance
    - Conversation:
        - Goal for conference revenue to cover its expenses. Decided to prevent raising membership dues to offset event losses, and instead reduce costs.
        - An option is to let attendees go on lunch on their own and save about $100k.
        - Consider impact on nonprofits when NEUAC does not provide meals.
            - Many get per-diem when the conference does not include meals.
        - Recommendation of hiring new people/consultants
        - Consider increasing the number of registrations that can be provided for free in the sponsorship package
        - Possibility to do sponsored regional lunch

c. <u>Membership & Fundraising</u> Katrina Metzler
    - Proposal to increase membership dues for utilities.
        - No need to compare ourselves to other organizations like Chartwell or ESource.
        - Need to increase members to prevent reducing the costs of NEUAC.
    - Review Membership and Fundraising Forms
        - Record number of members in 2025 - 106% of 2025 goal
        - 90% retention rate - Higher than other organizations (avg 68%)
        - Sponsorship: $546,078 from 48 organizations. 111% of $490k goal.
        - Proposal for Membership and Sponsorship fees for 2026 to stay at the same levels as 2025
        - Recommendation for Committee to reconsider membership rates next year.
        - Request for EEI, AGA and other trade associations to promote partnership
        - Scott Alan Davis volunteers to join Membership & Fundraising committee
        - Membership committee needs co-chair volunteer(s).

d. Public Policy & Advocacy Ben Jackson, Katrina Metzler
- FY2026 LIHEAP funding
    - House and Senate chambers moving through the appropriations process.
    - House proposed $20M increase. Senate proposed $10M
    - Continuous Resolution proposed didn't pass as of September 30th. So congress closed today, October 1st, until budget is confirmed
        - Senate requires 60 votes to re-open the government.
        - Senate voting on two track: Democrat proposing Health, and Republicans replicating the House CR.
            - 3 out of 8 democratic votes have been obtained to approve a Continuous Resolution.
        - Next votes will take place on 10/3/25
        - OMB director has threatened to reduce work force to programs that the administration doesn't support.
        - 59% of ACF people (including LIHEAP reps), are still working.
        - LIHEAP funds will be impacted once available funds are gone.
        - November may be harder if a Shut Down continues.
        - CR bill requires that LIHEAP continues funded and operating. If so, 90% is expected to be released.
        - Administration of Program starts in Nov 21st if budget is approved.
        - Maryland proposed pause on disconnections to federal employees impacted by shutdown
        - Michigan proposed continuing operations with current budget.
        - OBBB requires that 3rd party payment of utility bills count as income for SNAP assistance.
            - Research is being done on this end.
        - Due to the advocacy of NEUAC, LIHEAP had proposed increases while other programs lost funding.
- 2026 LIHEAP Action Day
    - Feb 24th and 25th
    - Meetings will be done at the Hill instead of a hotel
    - Room reservation is pending.
    - Importance of including caseworkers as part of LIHEAP Action Day to highlight the connecting services.

e. Executive Committee Michael Bradford
- Executive Director salary review process:
    - Creation of new process, which will be reviewed in December's board meeting
- Vote: Committee decisions to be ratified by full board
    - Approval of NEUAC written testimony submitted on June 13 to the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor HHS
        - Motion to ratify NEUAC's written testimony: Jesse Hernandez
        - Second: Kimberly Burton
        - Motion approved
- Respect, Access & Dignity Working Group
    - Discuss: Ad hoc working group
        - Executive Committee still has this under consideration, and it will be reviewed as soon as possible to the board.
- Highlights Katrina's work and leadership skills in the 9 years of NEUAC's stability.

4. Executive Director's Report Katrina Metzler
    - Utility Summit on December 2nd and Dec 3rd hybrid board meeting in Washington DC
        - Encouragement to go the hill on Dec 3rd
        - Message will be available on Dec 2nd
        - Board meeting starts at 1:00 p.m.
    - Board Survey:
        - 87 Organizations
            - 27 organizations didn't respond
            - 13 Community Action Agencies
            - 17 IOU
            - 19 other Non-Profits
            - 3 State-Gov
            - Tribe
            - 7 - Public Utilities
    - NEUAC Alumni:
        - Support to NEUAC. Instead of payment we will offer Conference attendance.
            - Motion to create an Alumni Group: Glenis Scott
            - Second: John Rich
            - Motion approved
    - Message Boards/List Serv
        - Option to create a space for peer feedback and repository for conversation.
    - Media and Engagement
        - Katrina is being called by big networks asking for interviews.
        - Consider Ad-Hoc Communications Committee to be created in the future
    - Option to create a space for peer feedback and repository for conversation.
    - Whistleblower and Conflict of Interest declaration:
        - Need all board members to complete the documents before leaving Seattle.
    - NCAP lease update:
        - Lease of office at NCAP building is ending after 5 years.
        - Katrina needs to know soon, so they can start looking for other options.
        - PO Box continues to be the same even if the address changes.

5. Updates from Federal Partners/Announcements
    - Vistra: Launching an energy aid in partnership with Dollar Energy Fund to help their customers in need.
    - OPPD: Partnerships can be impactful for energy assistance. Utility received award funding to help the communities in areas where data centers are being built.
    - NCAP:
        - Rate Making for Data Centers and other large power loads webinar: EUCI director: Oct 21st an 22nd conversation on Data Centers and AI.
        - 56 of the 56 WAP State plans have been approved.
        - February 6th will be in D.C.
        - 19 States that filed suit making the Fall weather for WAP (CAP), has been struck down as illegal.
    - CSRA EOA, Georgia: Some agencies have merged WAP and Energy Assistance

12:00 PM Motion to Adjourn requested by Michael Bradford

- Motion to adjourn by John Rich
- Second: Gary Swan
- Motion approved