Minutes – NEUAC Summer Board of Directors Meeting

May 18, 2026 | 9:00 AM PT
Hyatt Regency Seattle, Elwha Ballroom A, 808 Howell St., Seattle, WA 98101

Attendees: Anne Armstrong, Laura Bayona, Christine Beatty, Andrew Bennett, Liz Berube, Andrew Binegar, Michael Bradford, Daniel Bradshaw, Dani Brickman, Kate Brownlee, Latoya Butler, Kim Campbell Hailey, Kelly Caplan, Karen Cheeks, Mar Cuellar, Lauren Daily, Maria Delaplain, Sandra Diggs Miler, Marietta Doney, Liam Dotson, Gerri Drummond, Jeff Feinberg, Britton Gabel, Tiffany Gilstrap, Jennifer Guenther, Micki Halligan, Jesse Hernandez, Shannon Hester Jenkins, Maria Hopps, Diedra Howard, Tony Hunt, Ben Jackson, Laura Jacobs, Erin Jeffries, Patricia Johnson, Patrick Johnson, Kathy Kerr, Michelle Lehman, Maria Lopez, Cass Lovejoy, Erin Mao, Katrina McCree, Kevin McGrath, Megan Meadows, Lauren Medlin, Katrina Metzler, Elizabeth Moore, Charles Moreland, Shama Mounzer, Sam Owen, Rosa Pagnillo-Lopez, Debbie Paton, Elizabeth Paulson, Suzanne Pierazek, John Rich, Jennifer Rodriguez, Tori Rombach, Emma Rowland , Charles Satterfield, Glenis Scott, Amanda Shelton, Raven Simmons, Jason Sparks, Pauli Springer, Shannon Stahley, Angie Sterner, Shay Stokes, Gary Swan, Gabe Terry, Mike Turaj, Misty Velasquez, Star Walker, Olivia Wein, Monica West, Stacy Wong, Katie Zerfuss

9:02 AM **Call to Order** – Michael Bradford
- Establish quorum - Quorum established
- Welcome new board representative
- Meeting expectations

9:23 AM **Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting (2/23/2026)** – Michael Bradford
Motion to approve minutes
- Motioned by: Olivia Wein
- Second: John Rich
- All in favor- Motion passes

9:24 AM **Committee Reports**
Credentials & Elections – Andrew Bennett
1. Results of 2026 board election
   a. Vote: 2026-2027 Officers
      Motion to accept the slate of officers of the NEUAC Governance Board for starting at the conclusion of the Seattle conference and with term lasting until the end of the conference in 2027:
      President: Britton Gabel, Omaha Public Power District
      1st Vice President: Marietta Doney, Oregon Energy Fund
      2nd Vice President: Kim Campbell Hailey, Vistra Corp
      Secretary: Shaylee Stokes, Washington State Community Action Partnership
      Treasurer: Andrew Bennett, Energy Outreach Colorado
      Parliamentarian: Glenis Scott, Total Community Action
      Past President: Mike Bradford, The Salvation Army
      - Motioned by: Star Walker
      - Second: Olivia Wein
      - All in favor - Motion passes

   b. Introduction of incoming 2026-2029 Governance Board members, to be approved at the NEUAC annual membership meeting later on May 18:
      - Arizona Public Utilities (2nd term)
      - CEDA (2nd term)
      - Citizens Energy Group
      - Community Action Association of Pennsylvania
      - Consumers Energy (2nd term)
      - CSRA EOA, Inc.
      - Dominion Energy
      - Entergy (2nd term)
      - National Energy Foundation (2nd term)

- Oregon Energy Fund (2nd term)
- TECO Energy
- The Salvation Army – Central Territory
- Total Community Action (2nd term)
- Vistra
- Wayne Metro Community Action Agency

c. Vote: 2026-2027 Advisory Board
   - Discussion: Should the Advisory Board have a limit on number of members?
     - Multiple comments favoring diversity, all LIHEAP stakeholders represented
     - State government often have rules limiting participation to a non-voting body, so keeping Advisory Board accessible is important to keep them engaged.
     - Consider minimum amount of responsibilities for Advisory Board members.
     - Executive Director to remind Advisory Board of current expectations: attend one board meeting per year and encouraged to be part of one committee.

   Motion to accept the members of the Advisory Board for 2026-2027, as listed below, and task the Executive Committee to identify potential Advisory Board commitment requirements to apply to future years:

- Affordable Housing Alliance
- Ameren
- American Association of Blacks in Energy
- APPRISE
- Baltimore Gas and Electric
- Berkshire Hathaway Energy
- Black Hills Energy
- CenterPoint Energy
- Chesapeake Utilities
- Community Action of Skagit County
- DC Dept of Energy & Environment
- DC Office of the People's Counsel
- Delaware Office of Community Svcs
- Dollar Energy
- Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority
- Evergy
- Florida Power & Light
- Fuel Fund of Maryland
- Generation Power CT
- Lumbee Tribe
- Miami Valley Community Action Partnership
- Michigan Public Service Commission
- Mid America Assistance Coalition
- National Association for State Community Services Programs
- National Community Action Partnership
- National Energy Assistance Directors Association
- National Grid
- New Jersey Natural Gas
- Northern Virginia Electric Coop
- OIC of Washington
- Opportunity Council
- Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment
- Pacific Gas & Electric Company
- Partnership for Community Action
- PECO Energy
- Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
- Pepco Holdings Inc. – Exelon
- Salt River Project
- SEEL, LLC
- Snohomish County PUD
- Southern Company Gas
- Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
- Step Forward
- Tacoma Public Utilities
- Tennessee Housing Development Authority
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Texas Association of CAAs
- The Salvation Army National HQ
- The Washington Area Fuel Fund
- Wabash Area Development, Inc.
- Washington Gas
- WSSC Water
- Xcel Energy

- Motioned by: Rosa Pagnillo-Lopez
- Seconded: Kevin McGrath
- All in favor - Motion passes

Executive Committee will present recommendations in the next board meeting, and this outcome will not affect the 2026-2027 Advisory Board.

d. Vote: 2026-2027 Ex-officio Board member
Motion to approve the National Propane Gas Association to permanently join the NEUAC Ex-Officio Board.
- Motioned by: Jesse Hernandez
- Second: Britton Gabel
- All in favor - Motion passes

Finance – Marietta Doney
1. Presentation of April 2026 financials. Revenue is up over 2025, significantly more than expenses. Assets are in a healthy place going in to heavy spending of the conference.
a. Vote: **Motion to accept financial report**
- Motioned by: John Rich
- Second: Glenis Scott
- All in favor - Motion passes

Conference – Shaylee Stokes, Kim Campbell Hailey, Latoya Butler, Glenis Scott
1. 2026 Conference highlights
- Katrina Metzler:
  - Higher attendance, up compared to 638 in 2025.
  - Generally, nonprofits more frequently attend the conference, whereas utilities more frequently attend LIHEAP Action Day. Ideally, nonprofits also attend LAD.
  - A challenge is spending money before confirming the number of attendees.
  - Average revenue per attendee used to anticipate net revenues or loses.
  - Pre-conference and deep dive registrations provide visibility into priority sessions
- Discussion - All:
  - Agenda topics were very strong, which drives participation.
  - May be overwhelming for new attendees, but the first-timers welcome session helps.
  - LIHEAP reauthorization conversation is exciting.
  - Programs and information are right on point.
  - AI and data centers discussions timely.
  - Critical to have continuous messaging of coming together for LIHEAP households.
  - Consider launching an executive summit or webinar to engage organization leaders.
- Co-chairs:
  - Lots of work to include local organizations at this conference
  - Benefit of having hard discussions during conference
  - More support for new attendees; name badges in green identify first-timers
  - Additional tracks have been added in recent years

2. 2027 Conference San Antonio co-chairs TBD

Conference Site Selection – Kim Campbell Hailey
1. Baltimore is the proposed host city for 2028
- June 12-15 2028
- Opportunity to recognize Victorine Q Adams and highlight her work in Baltimore
- Housing rate comparable to San Antonio 2027
- Vote: **Motion to select Baltimore as 2028 conference site, sign Marriott contract**
  - Motioned by: Marietta Doney
  - Seconded: Rosa Pagnillo-Lopez
  - All in favor - Motion passes

2. 2029 Conference location:
- Minneapolis site visit: ~$279 per night for attendees
- San Francisco: ~$350 per night

- Discussion:
  - Dates vary depending on what the venues can offer
  - Higher room rates may be a deterrent to increasing the number of attendees
  - San Francisco is very expensive
  - Consider reducing conference duration or days of week, for cheaper travel
  - Consider promoting various hotel options, with min. required rooms at venue
  - Site selection requires local support, easy airport access, large hotels
  - Proposed future sites: Detroit, Pennsylvania

Membership & Fundraising – Maria Delaplain

1. Sponsorship comprises about 40% of NEUAC's revenue
   - Fundraising goals exceeded for 2026
2. Membership currently at 292 members, 94% of the 310 goal
   - Retention rate is 88%, and NEUAC has added 22 new members

Public Policy & Advocacy – Kate Brownlee, Ben Jackson

1. Policy and appropriations update:
   - LIHEAP Action Day had a record of over 300 meetings. Most appropriators reached.
   - President's budget proposed $0 for LIHEAP for 2027.
   - House Dear Colleague LIHEAP letters were signed with 141 signatures.
   - Several letters released through Senate, including Senate Dear Colleague with 40 signatures, among which were some new Republican signers.
   - Remaining FY26 LIHEAP funds (10%) was released on April 20.
   - LIHEAP was mentioned in all of the budget hearings from Health and Human Services
   - Currently in the FY27 appropriations processes.
     - House bill will drop on June 5 for subcommittee markup, full markup on June 9.
     - Senate markup dates have not been released.
     - Very likely will be a Continuous Resolution year because it is an election year.
   - Discussion:
     - IIJA funds have run out as of 2026. So starting in 2027, LIHEAP funding is effectively down $100M compared to 2026.
     - Advocacy is taking place to identify how to cover the $100M gap.
     - Re: connections between SNAP and LIHEAP, protecting LIHEAP funds has been the priority in advocacy conversations.
     - Due to the staffing cuts and OMB, it took longer for HHS to release the final 10%, so the coalition kept pushing for the release.
     - No information on supplemental funding to cover the $100M from IIJA
     - No concerns with LIHEAP being impacted by reconciliation
     - NEUAC, AGA, EEI to meet with each new Member of Congress after elections
     - NEUAC will also host the new Member briefing (*need donations to offer lunch)
     - LIHEAP Action day is the perfect date to catch the new members.
     - Follow up on the staffing at HHS hasn't been provided, but there is a staffing briefing planned. Appropriators have this as a high priority point.

2. Water affordability bill:
   - NEUAC has been approached to support a new water bill.
     - It would place the water program at EPA, limiting impact on LIHEAP funding.
     - The bill includes self-attestation for water assistance
   - Discussion:
     - A water program via Labor-HHS appropriations could compete with LIHEAP
     - Be cautious adding LIHWAP to LIHEAP in one bill; later cuts would impact LIHEAP.
     - Placing at EPA would keep in same agency budget that regulates water companies

- Increases in water prices effectively a decision of EPA regulation. EPA could do a better job than OCS could to manage a water assistance program
- LIHWAP is needed. NEUAC includes water companies. NEUAC should support the bill.
- Self-attestation is part of LIHWAP, which would impact legislative support.
- Need to identify possibilities to do a markup to add a provision for EPA to administer.
- A decision to endorse the bill should consider the mission to help households.
- Even if we do not want the linkage, the connection is there.
- NEUAC does not endorse if we cannot reach consensus.
- Should we always be in the driving seat? We need to at least be part of the solution.
- Next steps: PP&A committee to review bill for any recommendations to endorse.

Executive Committee – Michael Bradford:

1. NEUAC office lease signed
2. Children's Health Watch Grant
3. NEUAC special achievement award recipients
4. Vote: Create and hire new staff position at NEUAC: Senior Policy and Programs Director. Located in DC. To support research and data analysis, policy writing, education and training, etc.

- Budget considerations: Would increase expenses ~$135K in 2027, and ~$60K for 2026
- Discussion:
  - Board has been talking about NEUAC's growth and the need for more staff support for four years. Need to follow through.
  - Identify how can the board can lift the organization. Consider an endowment?
  - Do not place a cap of sponsorship levels, and review membership tiers.
  - Katrina needs to be more involved (more time) on legislative visits
  - Consider reviewing the salary level based on the location, or removing "senior"
  - Executive Director is aware of her staffing needs; defer hiring decisions to her.

Motion to accept the revision to the annual budget and post the Senior Policy and Programs Director position

- Motioned by: Shannon Stahley
- Second: John Rich
- All in favor- Motion passes

12:08 PM Executive Director's Report – Katrina Metzler

- Annual Report overview
- Strategic planning next steps
- New projects next steps
- Media and engagement
- Mandatory board documents (Annual Agreement, Whistleblower Policy & Conflict of Interest Acknowledgment, Board Composition Survey) and committee assignments

12:45 PM Updates/Announcements:

- Government Accountability Office (GAO) has interviewed Katrina about LIHEAP.
  - GAO is interviewing state and local agencies, and possibly subrecipients, at the request of Rep. Bobby Scott (VA), who is a LIHEAP supporter.
  - Focus appears to be Florida delays and program implementation challenges.
  - This new report could be cited for years (e.g. 2010 GAO report in President's budget).
  - Recommendation to consider having counsel present for any future interview.
  - Other investigations are being conducted in Oklahoma, Alabama

12:52PM Motion to Adjourn – Michael Bradford

- Motioned: Sandra Diggs-Miller
- Second: Latoya Butler