

W i n t e r | 2 0 1 9

# SERculator



SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF HOUSING AND CD PROFESSIONALS  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS



2019

The year '2019' is rendered in large, white, 3D-style numerals. The '0' and '9' are particularly large and prominent. The numbers are set against a background of a sunset or sunrise scene with a yellow sun partially obscured by clouds, set against a dark sky. The sun is positioned directly above the '1'. The numerals are reflected on a dark, textured surface below them.

Moon eclipse photo credit January 2019: Newton, Mississippi

EDITORIAL STAFF

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Paula Robertson, PR Designs

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- Mississippi ..... Rita McKissick
- ..... Vickie Cole
- North Carolina ..... Anna McRae
- South Carolina ..... Pancea Lewis
- West Virginia ..... Sharon Harmon

SERC REGION:

- Alabama
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Virginia
- West Virginia



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The SERCulator is the official publication of the Southeastern Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. The SERCulator is published quarterly. Comments, suggestions, articles, features and photographs are solicited in interest of the members of Southeastern Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. Although all submissions are subject to approval and editing, every effort will be made to publish submissions based on available space. Photos cannot be returned.

Send submissions to:  
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# A message from your SERC President

*Dear Serc Colleagues:*

I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to spend quality time with friends and loved ones! As I write this, the government is shut down with no end in sight. We are constantly watching a situation over which we have little control, but will affect our agencies and residents immensely if not resolved soon. Please keep our HUD colleagues that are currently not working in your thoughts and prayers. (Hopefully by the time this is published, the government will have reopened and we will be operating normally!)

It is imperative that we contact our congressional representatives and ask them to pass the agreed upon HUD budgets. These numbers will allow us to operate with the sense of normalcy that we all desire. We are always looking for the best ways to serve your communities, and in conjunction with other industry groups, we are meeting to monitor and advocate on your behalf at every opportunity. When you see a request from SERC or NAHRO to send an email, please take two minutes and send the correspondence. Your email may be the one that makes a difference.

Before you know it, the time will come to register for the 2019 SERC Annual Conference. Later this spring, please be on the lookout for registration materials. The conference will be held at the JW Marriott at Grand Lakes in sunny Orlando, FL from June 23-26. The agenda already looks great, and the annual conference committee has been hard at work for months to make sure that this year's conference will be one to remember!

Thanks for all that you do for SERC and your individual communities! I look forward to seeing each of you this year!!

**Sean Gilbert, SERC president**



Sean Gilbert  
SERC-NAHRO PRESIDENT



# SERC Officers | 2017-2019



## **PRESIDENT**

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## **VP OF COMMISSIONERS**

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**Sean Gilbert** is the senior vice president of housing for the Knoxville Community Development Corporation in Knoxville, TN where he has been for the past two years. Sean has his bachelor's degree in urban planning from Virginia Tech. He was the executive director of Housing Authority of Pikeville, August 1995–February 2014. Sean serves as the president for SERC.

**Mark E. Taylor** is the CEO of the Charleston-Kenawha Housing Authority. He has over 18 years' experience in public housing and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting. Mark is a district two board member for WVAHA. He is senior vice president for SERC and the past treasurer and past vice president for housing and for CR&D.

**Shaundra Clark** of Tifton, GA is the current secretary for SERC. Shaundra serves as executive director at the Tifton, GA housing authority and has over 23 years' experience in public housing. She holds a business administration degree as well as a master's in public policy and administration. Shaundra is chairperson of the convention committee and past president for GAHRA, and has served on numerous SERC committees in the past.

**Anthony Goodson, Jr** is the chief executive officer of the Housing Authority of the city of Goldsboro in Goldsboro, NC. He has approximately 12 years' service in public housing and serves as the board secretary for CCHRCO. Anthony is treasurer for SERC and serves as a member of the 40 under 40 committee, the rental assistance committee and vice president of member services.

**Michael Wong** is the executive director of the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. He has 18 years' service in public housing and is past president of VAHCDO. Michael serves as vice president of housing for SERC and as a member of the legislative committee. He has a bachelor's degree in economics from James Madison University.

**Cindy Peast Harrington** is the executive director of Bluefield Housing Authority in Bluefield, WV. Cindy has over 31 years of experience working with public housing agencies, with the last 27 serving in the position of Executive Director at Bluefield. She holds a bachelor's degree from Marshall University and master's degree from Mountain State University. She has served as board member, secretary, vice president and president of the West Virginia Association of Housing Agencies. She is currently the vice president for professional development, and has also served on several other SERC committees. She served as program chairperson for the 2015 and 2017 Annual Conference.

**Jan B. Piersol** of Newberry, SC will be serving as vice president of member services. She is the executive director of the Housing Authority of the city of Newberry with 35 years of experience in the housing industry. She holds a business administration degree. She is past president of CCHRCO and has served on numerous committees for CCHRCO and SERC.

**Stephen Burchett** (*photo not available*) is the finance director for the Morristown Housing Authority in Morristown, TN. He has twenty-five years' service in public and assisted housing. Stephen has his bachelor's degree in business administration and finance from Morehead State University. Stephen serves as vice president of CR&D for SERC.

**Henrietta Snipes** is a commissioner for the Opelika Housing Authority, Opelika, Alabama. She has been a commissioner for 21 years where she has served as chairperson for NAHRO's commissioner's committee. She has worked with the professional development sub-committee, served as track chairperson and is a NAHRO trainer and mentor for commissioners. In addition Henrietta was the Alabama Association of Housing and Redevelopment Association's 2015 Commissioner of the Year. She has certifications in all courses that are offered by NAHRO for commissioners. Henrietta's post-secondary education is from Southern Union College, Auburn University and Point University.

# SERC Committee I Chairs | 2017-2019

## Executive Committee

### STEERING COMMITTEE

President	Sean Gilbert	TN
Sr. VP	Mark Taylor	WV
Secretary	Shaundra Clark	GA
Treasurer	Anthony Goodson	NC
VP Commissioners	Henrietta Snipes	AL
VP Professional Development	Cindy Preast-Harrington	WV
VP CR&D	Stephen Burchett	TN
VP Member Services	Jan Piersol	SC
VP Housing	Michael Wong	VA

### STATE REPRESENTATIVES

AL	Dannie Walker	
FL	Miguell Del Campillo	
GA	Pat Bennett	
KY	Vickie Smiley	
MS	Ginger Ming	
NC	Burnetta Smith	
SC	Randy Mathis	
TN	Paul Dellinger	
VA	Connie Staudinger	
WV	Jeff Knight	

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Immediate PP	Dave Baldwin	VA
Second PP	Ailrick Young	MS
Third PP	Thomas Rowe	TN

## President's Portfolio

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

#### 2018—Norfolk, VA

Conference Chair	Shannon Biggs (Chair)	KY
Program Chairperson	Connie Howard	SC
Exhibits Chairperson	Gary Erwin	GA
Registration	Jake Oglesby	GA
	Angie Strickland	GA
Opening Ceremony	Wanda Stevens-Ruckman	VA
Ushers	Charlie Harrington	VA
Awards Ceremony	Michael Boatwright	GA
Flag Ceremony	Charlie Harrington	VA
Golf Tournament	Tom Wachs	AL

#### 2019—Orlando FL

Conference Chair	Shannon Biggs (Chair)	KY
Program Chairperson	Donna Lamer	SC
Exhibits Chairperson	Gary Erwin	GA
Registration	Jake Oglesby	GA
	Angie Strickland	GA
Opening Ceremony	Jeff Rieck	KY
Ushers	Kaye Judson	MS
Awards Ceremony	Michael Boatwright	GA
Flag Ceremony	Gerald Board	KY
Golf Tournament	Tom Wachs	AL

### Hospitality

RAD	Jan Piersol (Chair)	SC
	Joyce Floyd	TN
	James Cox (Co-Chair)	NC

## Sean Gilbert

## Emerging Leaders

Sharita Oates (Chair)	NC
Eliana Jones (Vice Chair)	NC
Mentors: The NAHRO Fellows	
Lisa Porter (Chair)	VA
Tom Wachs, Co-Chair	AL
Abraham Williams, Co-Chair	KY
Marilyn Medley	TN
Joyce Floyd	TN

## Small Agency Task Force Youth Leadership Development

## Executive Committee Coordinator Strategic Plan Coordinator

## Senior Vice President's Portfolio Budget Committee

Clifton Clark (Chair)	WV
Courtney Coleman	AL
Anthony Woods	FL
All Steering Comm Members	

## Legislative Committee Policy Advisory Committee

Mike Sweet (Chair)	AL
Thomas Rowe	TN
PA member:	
Tina Akers-Brown	NC
PA member:	
Austin Simms	KY
PA member:	
Don Cameron	SC
PA member:	
Ailrick Young	MS

## Nominating Committee

Ailrick Young, Chair	MS
Thomas Rowe	TN
NC member:	
Tina Akers-Brown	NC
NC member:	
Austin Simms	KY
NC member:	
Edwina Burnett	SC

## Intern'l Research & Global Exchange Site Selection Committee

Judy Mellard (Chair)	MS
Jake Oglesby, Co-Chair	GA
Shannon Biggs, Co-Chair	KY

## Secretary's Portfolio History/Archival Committee Resolutions

Shaundra Clark	
Edwina Burnett	AL
Dannie Walker (Chair)	AL

## Treasurer's Portfolio

Anthony Goodson	
Becky Holmes	SC

## VP Housing's Portfolio Housing Committee Rental Assistance Committee

Michael Wong	
Ginger Ming (Chair)	MS
Elizabeth McKinney (Chair)	SC

## VP CR&D's Portfolio C R & D Committee

Stephen Burchett	
Jesse Norwood (Chair)	AL

## VP Professional Development's Portfolio Professional Development

Cindy Preast-Harrington	
Buddy Oldfield (Chair)	GA

## Administrative Practice Education and Training

(Fall Workshop)	
Douglas Freeman (Chair)	GA
Becky Hartman (Chair)	GA

## VP Member Services' Portfolio Public Affairs/SERCulator

Jan Piersol	
Reta Thomas (Chair)	GA
Member Services	
Latonia Simmons (Chair)	GA
Scholarship	
Madelyn Dotson, Co-Chair	WV
Kay Judson, Co-chair	MS

## Insurance-Housing Benefits Plan Retirement-HART

Don Clemons	
Ed Johnston	

## VP Commissioners' Portfolio Commissioners

Henrietta Snipes	
John Austin (Chair)	NC

## 2017-2019 Small Agency Task Force

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Miller, Michael	TN	Bolivar Housing Authority	Ph: 731-658-3419	<a href="mailto:bhahs@bellsouth.net">bhahs@bellsouth.net</a>
Page, Philip	VA	Franklin Housing Authority	757-562-0384	<a href="mailto:ppage@frhaonline.org">ppage@frhaonline.org</a>
Porter, Lisa (Chair)	VA	Marion Housing Authority	Ph: 276-378-7990	<a href="mailto:lisa@marionrha.com">lisa@marionrha.com</a>
Stevens-Ruckman, Wanda	VA	Staunton Redevelopment & Housing Authority	Ph: 540-886-3413	<a href="mailto:wstevens@stauntonrha.org">wstevens@stauntonrha.org</a>
Meredith, Sonia	WV	Mount Hope Housing Authority	Ph: 304-877-6541	<a href="mailto:Symeredith14@suddenlinkmail.com">Symeredith14@suddenlinkmail.com</a>

# SERC COMMITTEES | 2017-2019

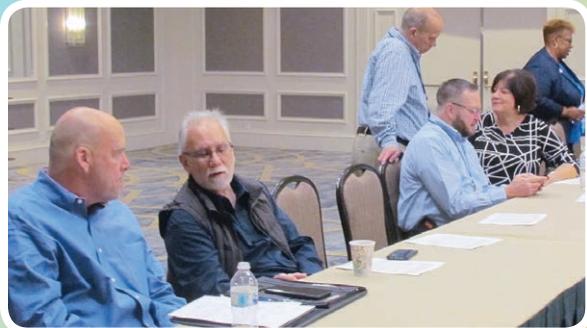
Committee	AL	FL	GA	KY	MS	NC	SC	TN	VA	WV
Admin Practices	Sharon Tolbert	Shannon Young	*Douglas Freeman	Shauna Boom	Tabitha Smith		Angela Childers	Dow Harris	Keith Viers	Vickie Lester
			Russell Nast		Ben Washington					
Commissioners	Henrietta Snipes	Joseph Triolo	J. L. Thompson	Suzy Oldham	John W. Bounds	*John Austin	Jack Windell	Margaret Milam	Harry Howe	Albert Martine
		Anthony Sawyer	Charles Alexander	John Curlis	Johnny Johnson	Dr. Dorothy Yarbrough	Frank Alexander			LuAnne Bush
CR&D	*Jesse Norwood	Patsy Rice	Beth Brown	Tim Kitts	Helen Werby	Shaunte Evans	Jamie Steen	Richard McClain	Connie Staudinger	Joyce Wolen
			Pete Waldrep		Ron Turner	Alanda Jackson			Karen Wilds	Vickie Lester
Education & Training	Donna Gabel	Dottie Avery	*Becky Hartman	Doris Wyatt	Brian Power	Chereka Belton	Anne Burroughs	Christy Billings	Carol Jones-Gilbert	Wally Board
			Vonda Gibson		Phyllis Hughes		Beverly Gasque	Jane Norsworthy		
Emerging Leaders	Tanya Griffin		Zsa Zsa Heard	Tim Kitts	Felicia Jackson	*Sharita Oates	Tonya Crowley	Sabrina Woodard	Stephanie Wright	
			Patricia Allen			*Eliana Jones			Connie Staudinger	
History/Archival	Debbie Rogers	Patsy Rice	Doug Freeman	Kathlynn Gray	Bob Farrar	*Shaunte Evans	Edwina Burnette	Jeff Green		Joyce Wolen
						Vanessa Dunn	Elizabeth McKinney			
Housing	Felicia Snow	Philip Grooms	Brenda Smith	Shauna Boom	*Ginger Ming	James Cox	Patrick Prince	Lisa Bonadio	Cindy Thomson	Clifton Clark
		Becky Sue Mercer	Debi McCade	Jeff Patrick	Katina Pace		Tonya Crowley		Scott Napier	Sharon Harmon
Internat. Research & Global Exchange	Akinola Popoola	Miguel Del Campillo		Vickie Smiley	*Judy Mellard	Tina Akers-Brown	Chuck Walling	Buford "Booty" Reed	Ron Jackson	Tammy Miller
					Ailrick Young					
Legislative	*Mike Sweet	Anthony Woods	Ann Dobson	Anita Jenkins	Thomas Coleman	Angela McGill	Randy Mathis	Buford "Booty" Reed	Ed Ware	Tony Bazzie
	Carlen Williams		Shirley Smith	Jeff Reick		Shaunte Evans	Ivory Mathews	Susan Minor	Michael Wong	
Member Services	Quisah Riche				John W. Bounds			Paul Dellinger		
	Shana Demby	Gail Sansbury	*Latonia Simmons	Bobbi Jarrett	Alan Ingram	Sharita Oates	Janice Fowler	Stacy Brannen	Philip Page	Sonia Meredith
Prof. Development	Brian Williams		Joe Thomas	Jeff Reick	Sara Lyons	Eliana Jones	Preston Thomas			
			*Buddy Oldfield			Faith Thompson		Marilyn Medley	Charlie Harrington	Cindy Preast
Public Affairs/ SERCulator			Marie Harris		Paula Dempsey		Donna Lamer	Joyce Floyd		
	Beverly Barber	Lisa Landers	*Reta Thomas	Robin Wheelodon Hoots	Rita McKissick	Anna McRae	Pancea Lewis			Sharon Harmon
Rental Assistance			Ella Murphy		Vicki Cole					
	Marguent Austin	LaShanda Lovette	Brandie Garner	Kathlynn Gray	Ben Washington	Tina Gray	*Elizabeth McKinney	Sherrie Samples	Scott Napier	Donna Whitt
Resolutions	Karan Potter		Pat Bennett		Jason Spencer				Cindy Thomson	Camen Easter
	*Dannie Walker		Vicki Paris	Tooter Castle	Barron Caulfield	Rosalind McClelland	Genelle Alexander	Mark Reid		Donna Whitt
Scholarship										
	Mary Mayrose	Catherine Reddick	Charles Alexander	Bobbi Jarrett	Alan Ingram	Joy Pochis	Jamie Steen	Maria Catron	Ron Jackson	*Madelyn Dotson
Small Agency Task Force	Beverly Barber		Vickie Paris		*Kaye Judson		Connie Howard			Camen Easter
	Shana Demby									
Youth Leadership Development	Doris Richardson 250	Catherine Reddick	Ruth Bass 300	Shannon Biggs 84	Bob Farrer 190		Janice Fowler 186		*Lisa Porter 484	Sonia Meredith
	Ron Jones		Michael Boatwright 328		Royal Ann Spencer 290	Wendy Ellis 174	Edwina Burnette 125	Michael Miller 119	Wanda Stevens 384	
Youth Leadership Development	Mollie Rowe				Rita McKissick 160				Philip Page 315	
	*Tom Wachs		Danita Wiggins	*Abraham Williams	Ailrick Young	Vanessa Dunn	Brian Griswell		Ralph Stuckey	Tammy Miller
	Donald Belle		Zsa Zsa Heard		Debra Taylor	Eliana Jones				
	Courtney Coleman									



# SERC COMMITTEES | MEETING 2017-2019



# SERC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | MEETING 2017-2019



The control, administration and management of the affairs, funds and property of SERC-NAHRO are vested in the executive committee consisting of twenty-two voting members. It includes: the officers of the council (president, senior vice-president, five vice-presidents with portfolio, secretary and treasurer). Also included are the three immediate past presidents of SERC-NAHRO who hold active membership in NAHRO and who still live in the council region and one representative from each state and territory comprising SERC-NAHRO (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia). All members of the executive committee must be individual members in good standing of SERC-NAHRO when elected and throughout their term of office.



2017-2019

# ALABAMA | OFFICERS

A



*Dannie Walker  
President*

**Dannie Walker** is the executive director/CEO of Alabama's Ozark Housing Community and has over 27 years of public housing experience. He currently serves as president of AAHRA, chairperson of SERC's resolution committee, and as a member of SERC's executive committee. Dannie has previously served on SERC's housing, resolutions, legislative, awards and budget committees as well as numerous positions with AAHRA. Dannie earned a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and completed post graduate work at a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

M



*Beverly Bell Barber  
Vice President*

**Beverly Bell Barber** serves as executive director of Alabama's Opp Housing Authority, and has over 25 years' experience in the housing industry. She currently serves as an AAHRA board member and on the SERCulator committee. Beverly received her bachelor's degree from Troy University in Troy, Alabama.

**Carolyn Sutley** is the retired executive director of the Enterprise Housing Authority and a longtime member of AAHRA. Previous positions in AAHRA include, president, secretary, treasurer, convention chairperson and many committee positions. In 2016, she retired from the Enterprise HA and continues to do consulting work and accounting. Being a Grandmother and being retired are the best jobs she has ever had!

A



*Carolyn Sutley  
Treasurer*

**Leigh Chappell** holds bachelor's degrees in human resource management and psychology from Athens State University. She began working with the housing authority of the city of Hartselle in March, 1995. Leigh has served on the board of directors for AAHRA and as president in 2013. She also served on the board of directors and as vice-president for APHADA. She is chairperson of the small housing committee for PHADA and has chaired several committees for AAHRA.

**Lance Armstrong** is the executive director of Scottsboro Housing Authority. He has served as president of AAHRA, as well as on SERC's state representative and legislative committees. He is a NAHRO certified public housing manager, a PHADA EDEP graduate, and holds a bachelor's degree from Athens State University.

B



*Leigh Chappell  
Secretary*

**Felicia Snow** is the executive director of Alabama's Prichard Housing Authority. She has over 13 years of housing experience and currently serves as an AAHRA board member and on SERC's housing committee. Felicia holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Auburn University.

**Ron Jones** serves as executive director of the Clanton Housing Authority, REAC High Performer 95. He is the current president of APHADA and serves on the board of directors of AAHRA. Ron is the chairperson for site selection committee and vendor committee. He holds a bachelor's degree from Valdosta State University.

A



*Lance Armstrong  
Past President*

**Sharon Tolbert** is CEO of the Auburn Housing Authority and also manages the Lafayette and Roanoke Housing Authorities. Sharon has over twenty-five years of experience administering various HUD-sponsored programs. She is a native of Auburn, AL and has a master's degree in business administration from Troy University. Sharon serves on various local, state, regional, and national boards and committees.

**Greg Price** is the executive director of the Greater Gadsden Housing Authority. Prior to joining the Greater Gadsden Housing Authority, Greg spent 29 years with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development providing oversight of the 146 housing authorities in Alabama. While with HUD, he served on the Alabama Policy Taskforce for over 20 years. Greg graduated from the University of Alabama in 1985 and married his wife Wendy in 1987. They have two children, Steven and Danielle.

A



*Felicia Snow  
Member*



*Ron Jones  
Member*



*Sharon Tolbert  
Member*



*Greg Price  
Member*

# CAROLINA | OFFICERS

2017-2019

**Burnetta Smith** is president of Carolinas Council of Housing Codes and Redevelopment Officials (CCHRCO). She is the chief executive officer of the Housing Authority of the County of Wake located in Zebulon, North Carolina. A seasoned professional with nearly 35 years of rewarding experience in the fields of housing and community development, Burnetta has served on numerous committees with CCHRCO, SERC and NARHO. Burnetta holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in housing management from Winston-Salem State University, and she has participated in countless continuing education and trainings in the housing and customer service fields.

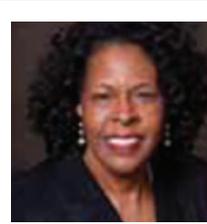
**Randy Mathis** is the executive director of the Gaffney Housing Authority of South Carolina. He has 43 years of service in public housing, with 24 years as an executive director. He is the president-elect of CCHRCO. Randy received his bachelor's degree in business administration from James Madison University.

**Vivian Perry** is the deputy executive director of Kinston North Carolina Housing Authority. She has 23 years' experience in the housing industry. Vivian serves as senior vice president of CCHRCO.

**Robbie D. Littlejohn** is the executive director of the Union Housing Authority in Union, South Carolina. He has 8 years' experience in public housing and currently serves as first vice-president of CCHRCO. He earned his bachelor's degree from Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He is a NAHRO-certified public housing manager and a graduate of PHADA's and Rutgers University's executive director education program. Robbie is a past member of SERC's housing committee. He is married to Wanda Littlejohn, and they have two sons.

**Wendy Ellis** is the executive director of the Farmville Housing Authority in Farmville, North Carolina. She has over 17 years of service in public housing and currently serves as treasurer of the CCHRCO. Wendy serves on several SERC committees.

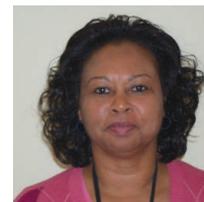
**Michael Dineen** is the executive director of the Lenoir Housing Authority in North Carolina and has over ten years of experience in public housing. He serves as the secretary for CCHRCO and senior vice president of NCHADA. Michael graduated from Shorter University in Rome, GA. He is married to Jennifer and they have three children, Mattie, Lilly, and Cal.



*Burnetta Smith  
President*



*Randy Mathis  
President Elect*



*Vivian Perry  
Senior Vice President*



*Robbie D. Littlejohn  
First Vice President*



*Wendy Ellis  
Treasurer*



*Michael Dineen  
Secretary*

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*Debbie Johnson  
President*

**Debbie Johnson** is the president of FAHRO. She has 36 years' service in the housing industry within the state of Florida and she has spent the past eight years in her current position as executive director of the Pinellas County Housing Authority. Debbie earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland where she completed major coursework in mass communications, and she is a graduate of the Executive Director Education Program of PHADA and Rutgers University.

**Dr. Anthony E. Woods** is the executive director of the Palatka Housing Authority in Florida. He currently serves on SERC's legislative committee and budget committee. He has more than 23 years' experience in the industry. He and his wife Liza have six children, and he is a licensed minister.

**Miguell Del Campillo** is the executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Miami and the immediate past president of FAHRO. Miguell holds a master's degree from Columbia University and has over 12 years' experience in public housing. He serves on the SERC/NAHRO international research and global exchange committee.

**Dr. Abe Singh** is the executive director of the Area Housing Commission in Pensacola, FL. In April 2018, he will have nine years experience in public housing and currently serves as the vice president/treasurer of FAHRO.

**Shannon Young** has been with the Seminole County Housing Authority for 12 years. She is currently the vice president-secretary of FAHRO and has served on SERC committees since 2013. She also serves on the PHADA Bollinger scholarship committee.



*Anthony E. Woods  
President Elect*

**Kristopher Cruzada** is the chairman of the Seminole County Housing Authority, and has been a board member of the Seminole County Housing Authority since 2005. He also serves on the commissioner's committee for NAHRO-SERC. Kristopher obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida in accounting and then attended St. Louis University School of Law. He is a member of the Florida Bar and maintains an active legal practice in Oviedo, Florida.

**Jerome Ryans** is the executive director of the Tampa Housing Authority. He has a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's in social work. Jerome has over 29 years' experience in public housing and served as executive director for both the Memphis, Tennessee Housing Authority and the Birmingham, Alabama Housing Authority before relocating to Florida. Jerome is a past president of FAHRO.

**Gail Sansbury** is the executive director of the Ft. Walton Beach Housing Authority. She has approximately 22 years' service in public housing. Gail served as past-president of FAHRO and also a member-at-large. She serves on SERC's member services committee.

**Ann Deibert** is the CEO of Florida's Broward County Housing Authority. She has 42 years' experience in the housing industry and serves on the board of directors for FAHRO. Ann has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of North Carolina.



*Miguell Del Campillo  
Past President*

**Philip O. Goombs** - a is FAHRO board member at large and director of finance at the West Palm Beach Housing Authority. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of the West Indies and PHM & SPHM certifications. Phillip has over 30 years' experience working in public housing and is a member of SERC's housing committee and a member of the Lauderhill affordable housing advisory committee.

**Pamela Davis** is the executive director of the Gainesville Housing Authority and has 28 years of service in the public housing industry. She holds a masters' degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in social work.

**Becky-Sue Mercer** has been in the housing/customer service realm since 1995, primarily in public housing. She has experience in tax credit, Section 8, Section 202, rural development and Project Based Voucher programs in Ohio, Michigan and Florida. Mercer is the executive director at Arcadia Housing Authority; she completed the HUD Recovery Plan and the agency was removed from the "troubled list" in 2014. Mercer is a graduate of the executive director education program of PHADA and Rutgers University. Her focus has been helping people by maintaining community relations and being an active community partner for non-HUD programs. Mercer serves on several committees of the Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (FAHRO) and is also active with SERC-NAHRO and PHADA.

**William Russell III** is CEO of the Sarasota Housing Authority and has over 18 years' experience in the housing industry. He is a past president and current board member of FAHRO.

**Kim Barclay** is the executive director of FAHRO and has worked in association management and the non-profit industry for twenty-five years. Her strong meeting and event planning skills bring a unique flair and creative flair to the position. She lives in Tallahassee with her husband Steve and is a home chef who enjoys boating and fishing.



*Abe Singh  
V.P. Treasurer*



*Shannon Young  
V.P. Secretary*



*Kristopher Cruzada  
Commissioner at Large*



*Jerome Ryans  
Member at Large*



*Gail Sansbury  
Member at Large*



*Ann Deibert  
Member at Large*



*Kim Barclay  
Executive Director*



*William Russell  
Member at Large*



*Becky Sue Mercer  
Member at Large*



*Pamela Davis  
Member at Large*



*Phillip O. Goombs  
Member at Large*

# GEORGIA | OFFICERS

2018-2019

**Michael Boatwright** is the executive director for the Moultrie Housing Authority, Doerun Housing Authority and the Moultrie Leased Housing Corporation located in Moultrie, Georgia. With 16 years' experience in public housing, Michael serves as the President in GAHRA. He currently serves on SERC's annual convention committee and the small agency task force committee. He has previously served on various committees both within SERC and GAHRA. Michael is a graduate of the University of Georgia and is married with two children.

**Reta Thomas** a housing professional with 34 years of service, currently serves as the resident services coordinator for the Augusta Housing Authority in Augusta, Georgia. She is the senior vice president of housing and redevelopment for GAHRA and is serving a second term as chairperson of SERC's public affairs/SERCulator committee. Reta is an alumnus of Albany State University and Faith Bible Institute. She has one adult son and two adorable grandsons, Lathan and Dillon.

**Mark Watson** has served as the executive director of the Jesup Housing Authority since 2003. Prior to that, Mark was the Utilities Area Maintenance Planner for Rayonier in Jesup. He is a graduate of Armstrong Atlantic State University and holds a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics. Mark was named to the first 40 under 40 list for SERC, and he has participated in the GAHRA Emerging Leaders Program. He has served as chairman of several GAHRA committees, including both the state and national legislative committees and the annual convention committee. He has also served as vice-chairperson of the SERC strategic planning committee.

**Debi McDade** is the executive director of the West Georgia Consortium, which manages the Arlington, Cuthbert, Edison, Fort Gaines and Shellman Housing Authorities as well as a Section 202 property, Southwood Village Apartments. She has 13 years' experience in public housing, six of those being as the executive director. She is the vice-president for Legislation & Regulation for GAHRA. Debi currently serves on the housing committee for SERC. Debi is married to Dennis McDade and they have two grown children and three grandchildren.

**Latonia Simmons** serves as the Interim vice-president asset property management officer with the Albany Housing Authority in Albany, Georgia and has over 20 years of experience in public housing. She holds an associate's degree in human services and a bachelor of arts degree in social work. Latonia serves as chairperson of SERC's member services committee. She was a 2012 graduate of GAHRA's Future Leaders class and a 2015 graduate of SERC's 40 Under 40 class. Latonia is married to Andre' Simmons, and they have a son.

**Brandie Garner** is the director of the Housing Choice Voucher Program for the Marietta Housing Authority. She has 17 years' public housing experience and serves as the vice president of housing and regulation of GAHRA. Brandie currently serves on the SERC rental assistance committee. She earned her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and her master's from The University of South Florida. She and her husband Greg live in Jefferson, Georgia and have two sons, Ethan, a junior at North Greenville University and Logan, a senior at Jefferson High School.

**Marie Harris** is the executive director of the Roberta Housing Authority and has 25 years of service in public housing. She has served on the GAHRA executive committee for 23 years, as chair & co-chair of the management committee and chair & co-chair of the professional development committee, and as a member of the convention committee, U.S. government committee, and Georgia government committee. She has also represented GAHRA on the SERC professional development committee for two terms.

**Gary Erwin** is the executive director and CFO of the Conyers Housing Authority and has 12 years of public housing experience since 2006. He oversees the operations of 290 public housing units and manages an additional 116 unsubsidized affordable housing units through a nonprofit corporation of which he is the CEO. Prior to 2006, Gary was a lieutenant for the Conyers Police Department where he specialized in financial investigations and audits, and as of 2013 he rejoined Conyers Police to become their SWAT entry team leader. Gary has been married for 23 years, has one daughter at the University of Georgia School of Veterinary Medicine, and his son is a senior in high school with the intentions of continuing his education in criminal justice. Gary has been serving SERC since 2017 as the exhibitor chairman. Gary served GAHRA as the exhibitor committee chairman from 2013-2018 and is now the GAHRA treasurer.

**Russell L. Nast** is serving his 30th year as the executive director of the Housing Authority of the city of Tallapoosa. He currently serves at the past-president of GAHRA and continues to serve on many GAHRA committees. He serves on SERC's administrative practices and RAD committee. He has also served on SERC's CR&D committee. He is a NAHRO certified public housing manager and executive housing manager. His authority recently converted to the HUD multifamily program through the RAD conversion tool. He is married to Jo Nast, has two adult children and now the proud grandfather to his first granddaughter.



Michael Boatwright  
President



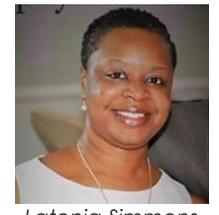
Reta Thomas  
Sr. Vice President



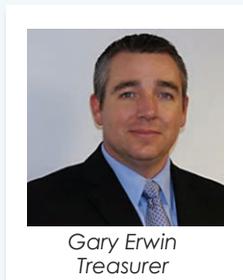
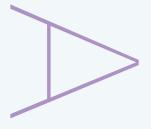
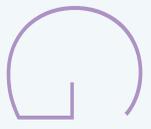
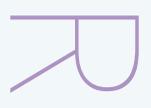
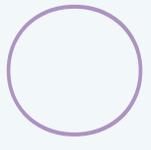
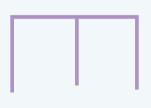
Mark Watson  
V.P. Professional Dev



Debi McDade  
V.P. Legislation



Latonia Simmons  
V.P. Member Services





Vickie Smiley  
President

**Vickie Smiley** is the executive director of the Housing Authority of Hopkinsville and currently serves as the state president. She has been in housing for 18 years. In the past, she has served as District #1 director and vice-president of the Kentucky Housing Association. She has also served on several SERC and PHADA committees. She is married to Bruce, has 2 grown children and 3 grandchildren.



Steven Parker  
V.P. Housing

**Steven Parker** is the executive director for the Housing Authority of Dawson Springs and has 10 years' experience in public housing. He currently serves as vice president of the Kentucky Housing Association (KHA) and serves on the board for the KHA Self-Insured Fund. He has also served as vice president of public housing for KHA, and has served on various SERC committees, including SERCcess, emerging leaders, and 40 under 40. He holds a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University in financial management/planning.



Ruth Tanner  
Secretary

**Ruth Tanner** is the executive director for the Boone County Assisted Housing Department in Burlington. She has 23 years' experience in the Housing Choice Voucher Program. She previously served as vice president of Section 8 for the Kentucky Housing Association, and is currently serving as the secretary for association.



Cheri James  
Treasurer

**Cheri James** is the executive director of the Catlettsburg Housing Authority. She has over 18 years' experience in local government with 5 years' experience in public housing. She currently serves as the treasurer for the Kentucky Housing Association. She received her bachelor's degree in finance from Morehead State University. She and her husband Trent have two sons – Zachary, a junior at Morehead State University and Nicholas, a sophomore at West Carter High School.



Jeff Rieck  
V.P. Housing

**Jeff Rieck** is the executive director for the Housing Authority of Covington. He has 10 years' experience in public and affordable housing and serves as the vice president of housing for Kentucky Housing Association. He is a Rutgers University certified EDEP, NAHRO certified PHM, and Quadel certified TaCCs. Jeff earned his bachelor's degree in business management from Southern Illinois University. Jeff serves on NAHRO's professional development committee and diversity, equity, and inclusion task force. He also serves on SERC-NAHRO's professional development and annual conference committees. He is the proud single father of a beautiful 18 year old daughter.



Kathy Gray-Smith

**Kathy Gray-Smith** is deputy director at Cumberland Valley Regional Housing. She has 19 years' experience in public housing. Kathy has an associate's degree in business & computer communication from SECC College. She held several board positions with KHA before becoming KHA president for the 2011- 2013 term.

**Faith Cornwell-Pike** is the maintenance director for the Housing Authority of Catlettsburg. She has 5 years' experience in public housing. She currently serves as vice-president of maintenance for the Kentucky Housing Association. She serves on local revitalization and civic committees both as a public servant and as a business owner. She is both a music performer and teacher. She and her husband Steve have five children.

**Sean Cooper** is the chief financial officer of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Housing Authority where she has 18 years' service. Sean is also a licensed certified public accountant. She has served in multiple positions with the Kentucky Housing Association board and is most recently the director at large.

**Shauna Boom** is the executive director of the Housing Authority of Owensboro. She has worked in public housing for over 20 years. She is past president of the Kentucky Housing Association and serves on the SERC administrative practices committee. Shauna is married with three children and holds a bachelor's degree in administration of justice from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale.



Faith Cornwell-Pike  
V.P. Maintenance



Sean Cooper  
Director at Large



Shauna Boom  
Past President

# MISSISSIPPI | OFFICERS

2017-2019

**Ginger Ming** is the executive director of the Louisville Housing Authority where she has 15 years of service. She is currently the president of MAHRO and serves on the MHARM Insurance board. Ginger is currently serving as the chairperson of the SERC housing committee. She also serves on the housing committee for NAHRO.

**Ben Washington** is the executive director of the Vicksburg Housing Authority and its non-profit Vicksburg Housing Management and Development LLC., where he has over six years' service. He is a board member for MAHRO, and serves on SERC's rental assistance committee. He has a bachelor of science in business administration from University of Southern Mississippi.

**Kaye Judson** is retired from the West Point Housing Authority. Kaye has 32 years' experience in public housing and holds a bachelor's degree in science and accounting. She currently serves as secretary-treasurer of her state association and is co-chairperson of the scholarship committee for SERC. She has served on SERC's small agency task force, scholarship, housing, professional development, and education and training committees. Kaye also serves on NAHRO's professional development and small agency task force committees.

**Paula Dempsey** is the occupancy administrator at the Louisville Housing Authority of Louisville where she has 2 years of service. She is currently serving as SERC's vice president for professional development in MAHRO and is currently serving on SERC's professional and development committee.

**Alan Ingram** is the executive director for the Natchez Housing Authority. He has 36 years' experience and serves as the vice president of member services in MAHRO. He is also a member of MAHRO scholarship committee, legislative committee, the MHARM Insurance advisory board and is the editor for the MAHRO Informer. Alan is currently serving on SERC's scholarship and member services committees, and is a past state representative and former member of the executive, legislative and scholarship committees. He has a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of Mississippi.

**Katina Pace** is deputy executive director for Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VI (MRHA VI) in Jackson. Prior to joining MRHA VI in December 2013, she served as vice president of the allocation division of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program for the state of Mississippi at Mississippi Home Corporation. She has over 17 years of affordable housing experience. Mrs. Pace received her bachelor's degree in economics with an accounting emphasis from Tougaloo College.

**John Bounds** is the chairperson of the board of commissioners for Mississippi's Oxford Housing Authority. He has 16 years' experience in the housing industry. John has a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi, and he serves as the vice president of the board of commissioners for MAHRO. He also serves on SERC's legislative and commissioners' committees.

**Tabitha Smith** is the executive director of the Tupelo Housing Authority and has 24 years of service. She currently serves as chairperson of the MAHRO administrative practices committee. She also serves as a member of MAHRO's emerging leaders committee, and on the SERC administrative practices committee.

**Brian Power** is the executive director at Mississippi Regional Housing Authority IV in Columbus, MS, and has 33 years' service in public housing. Brian serves on the board of directors and as past president of MAHRO. He has been a SERC member for 25 years and has served on numerous committees including maintenance and modernization; public affairs, legislative, education and training committee, executive committee; and as a state representative.

**Rita McKissick** is the executive director of The Housing Authority of the City of Booneville. She worked for The Housing Authority of the City of McComb for seventeen years, starting as a housing manager and moving up to administrative assistant before coming to Booneville Housing. Rita has two children and two grandchildren.

**Helen Werby** is the executive director of the Biloxi Housing Authority, where she began working in August, 2004 as the HOPE VI coordinator. She serves as the president of the Biloxi Community Development Corporation. She currently serves on the boards of the Mississippi Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (MAHRO), the Mississippi Housing Authority Risk Management Insurance Pool (MHARM), Gulf Coast Housing Initiative, Mercy Housing and Human Development, Mississippi Association of Affordable Housing Providers (MAAHP), and Gulf Coast Housing Partnership.

**Felicia Jackson** is the assistant executive director of the Housing Authority of the city of Laurel, MS where she has 26 years of service. She is a co-chairperson of the South Mini Group, and a member of Professional Development and Emerging Leaders for MAHRO and SERC. Felicia is a graduate of Jackson State University holding a bachelor's degree in business administration.

**Thomas Coleman** is the executive director of Tennessee Valley Regional Housing Authority of Corinth, and has over 40 years of service. He has served on the board of directors for MAHRO and on SERC's legislative committee. He is past vice president of housing (two terms) and has served on numerous other committees. He has a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University. Thomas and his wife Mary Kathryn have two sons, Tom and Douglas, and two grandchildren.

**George Smith** is a retired executive director from MRHA V in Newton, Ms. He currently serves on the MAHRO Policy Advisory Committee

**Ailrick Young** is the executive director of the city of Laurel and has 22 years' experience. He is currently a member advisory committee of the policy committee in the Mississippi chapter, and has served as SERC past president as well as on the nominating and youth development committees. He holds a bachelor's degree from University of Southern Mississippi in criminal justice. Ailrick and his wife Sabrina have two children, Ailrick Jr. and Lauren.

**Royal Ann Spencer** is the executive director of the Clarksdale Housing Authority where she has 39 years of service. She serves on the policy advisory committee for MAHRO, and is currently serving on SERC's small agency task force committee. She has also served on the board of directors of MAHRO as well as president, senior vice-president, and vice-president for professional development. Royal Ann attended the University of Southern Mississippi.

**Judy Mellard** is the executive director of the Hattiesburg Housing Authority with 16 years of service. She currently serves as the immediate past president of MAHRO. She is the Mississippi SERC representative and has served on SERC's annual conference, professional development, housing, legislative, and budget committees. Currently, she serves as the chairperson of the SERC-NAHRO IRGE committee and serves on the SERC legislative committee. She received her bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Southern Mississippi with an entrepreneurship emphasis. Judy is certified in public housing management.



Ginger Ming  
President



Ben Washington  
Senior Vice President



Kaye Judson  
Secretary/Treasurer



Paula Dempsey  
VP Professional Dev



Alan Ingram  
VP Members Services



Helen Werby  
Director



Rita McKissick  
Director



Brian Power  
Director



Tabitha Smith  
Director



John Bounds  
VP of Commissioners



Katina Pace  
VP of Housing



Felicia Jackson  
Director



Thomas Coleman  
Policy Advisory



George Smith  
Policy Advisory



Ailrick Young  
Policy Advisory

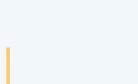


Royal Ann Spencer  
Policy Advisory



Judy Mellard  
Past President





Paul Dellinger  
President



Hershel Thrasher  
Senior Vice President



Jo Alred  
V.P. Commissioners



Thomas Rowe  
Secretary/Treasurer



Marcia Lewis  
V.P. Housing



Maria Catron  
V.P. Professional Dev

**Paul Dellinger** has served as the executive director of the Cleveland Housing Authority since 2005, having previously served as the deputy director of the Allen Metropolitan Housing Authority (Lima, Ohio) for more than 12 years. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Bowling Green State University in 1983 and later earned his master's in business administration from Tiffin University in 2003. Paul and his wife Sheri have two sons: U.S. Army Captain Aaron P. Dellinger currently stationed at Fort Wainwright, Alaska and Cody Dellinger, a surveyor with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Louisville, KY). Paul and Sheri have two grandsons, Gentry (2yrs) and Landry (6mos) also currently stationed at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Paul enjoys family, travel, playing guitar, and endurance mountain bike racing.

**Hershel Thrasher** has been with the Shelbyville Housing Authority (SHA) for twenty three (23) years and was named executive director in 1993. Hershel has served Tennessee Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities as board member at large and is currently serving as vice-president of housing. Locally, Hershel is past president of the Shelbyville Breakfast Rotary Club, served as chairman of the Bedford County Housing Committee for the Governor's 3 Star Community Program, has served as vice-chair of the Shelbyville Regional Planning Commission, and currently serves as deacon at First Baptist Church in Shelbyville. Hershel and his wife, Karen, have two grown children (Lee & Leslie) and nine grandchildren.

**Jo Alred** is currently serving as the board chairperson for the Jackson Housing Authority in Jackson, Tennessee. Appointed to the housing board in 1998, she has served for the past 15 years. During this time she has served as co-chairperson for the commissioners committee for TAHRA and as secretary to the commissioners committee for SERC-NAHRO. She is a trainer for the commissioner certification offered through NAHRO. Before retiring in 1997, Jo had 31 years of service to the state of Tennessee as a teacher and administrator for Dyersburg City Schools, Jackson State Community College and the Tennessee Technology Center at Jackson.

**Thomas Rowe** graduated with a B.S. in accounting from Atlantic Christian College, Thomas started his housing career with the Rocky Mount Housing Authority in 1980 as the assistant to the comptroller. He held various positions in Rocky Mount before becoming the executive director. In 1996, Thomas became the executive director of the Fort Mill Housing Authority until December 2013, when he joined the Murfreesboro Housing Authority. He was also the director of three other non-profit entities that were involved in land development for affordable housing. He is past president of SERC-NAHRO, and past president of the Carolina Council of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. Thomas has twin sons, Bryan and Henderson who are 29 years old.

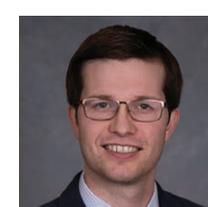
**Marcia Lewis** is the executive director of the Memphis Housing Authority (MHA). Marcia came to MHA from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, where she was the director of public housing for the Memphis hub. She is a vice-president for public housing for SAHMA and was just appointed to serve a three year term on the Federal Home Loan Bank's Affordable Housing Advisory Council. She has over 25 years of experience in the industry and is a graduate of Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis.

**Maria Catron** joined Kingsport Housing & Redevelopment Authority (KHRA) in 2004 and is currently serving as KHRA's deputy director. During her tenure with KHRA, she has worked on various endeavors from HOPE VI Community Supportive Services and Choice Neighborhoods to Family Self Sufficiency/Homeownership which has given her the opportunity to gain experience in grant writing, redevelopment, asset management, and facilitating community partnerships. Maria serves on several local, regional, and state committees and boards such as the Tennessee Affordable Housing Coalition (TNAHC) and Fahe. Maria resides in Kingsport with her husband Darryl and four of their six children.

**Ben Bentley** is the executive director/CEO for KCDC, where he develops and implements strategic initiatives to improve affordable housing and foster development in Knoxville and Knox County. Prior to his current role, Ben served as COO of the MDHA in Nashville. He holds a master of public policy from the University of Denver and is working toward a master of real estate at Georgetown University. An Alabama native, he also holds a bachelor's degree in history from Birmingham-Southern College. Ben and his wife Kate have two children.

**Jim Payne** has served as executive director of Sparta Housing Authority since 2002. His is also the past president of the Sparta Jaycees, past member of the Sparta Rotary Club, served as City of Sparta alderman for fifteen years, served as vice president at large for TAHRA under the leadership of two past presidents, and has been vice president of housing for the past two years. Jim was president of TAHRA from 2015-2017. He serves on the board of trustees for Motlow State Community College He is married to Judy Parker Payne.

**Joyce Floyd** is the vice president of strategic planning and development for KCDC, the housing and redevelopment agency for Knoxville, TN. Her responsibilities include the development of KCDC's long range and annual organizational strategies, executive oversight of their implementation with focus on financial impact, and over sees KCDC's development and acquisition activities. She has over 30 years of experience in the affordable housing market. She also serves as chairperson for the Sparta Housing Authority board of commissioners. She has a strategic planning certification from the Performance Institute as a certified government performance manager and oversees the strategic planning activities for both SERC/NAHRO and TAHRA. She currently serves on NAHRO's Community Revitalization and Development Committee. Joyce received her bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University.



Ben Bentley  
V.P. Members Services



Jim Payne  
1st Past President



Joyce Floyd  
2nd Past President

# VIRGINIA | OFFICERS

2017-2019

**Phillip Page, Jr.** is the executive director of the Franklin Redevelopment and Housing Authority after having previously served as director of development of the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority. He has 16 years of experience in affordable housing. Phillip received his undergraduate degree from William & Mary and holds an MBA from Oklahoma State University. Currently, he serves on the SERC executive and small agency task force committees and is the president for VAHCDO.

**Keith Sherrill** is the grant programs officer for the Virginia Housing Development Authority. He has approximately 19 years of experience in the housing industry and is the senior vice president for VAHCDO. He has both a bachelor's and a master's degree from Virginia Tech.

**Gary Wasson** has served as the CEO and executive director of the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority since March 2006, though he has been working with public housing agencies since 1984. Gary has a bachelor's degree in economics from Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Washington. He currently serves as the secretary of VAHCDO.

**Lance Allen** is the deputy director/accountant for Staunton Redevelopment and Housing Authority. A talented musician, Lance is the former executive director of the P. Buckley Moss Society and is the current treasurer of VAHCDO.

**Diana Carter** is the vice-president of operations for the Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority with more than three decades of experience in the affordable housing industry. She is a past president of the Little Ten Housing Authorities of Southwest Virginia and a graduate of LEAD Bristol. Diana earned her bachelor's degree from King University.

**John Bohm** is a life member of VAHCDO, former CEO of NAHRO, and a previous deputy assistant secretary for HUD. He is a pioneer and supporter of small agency solutions and a creative affordable housing advocate. John holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Northeastern University. He is VAHCDO's vice-president for community development.

**Keith Viers** is the executive director for the Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority and serves as VAHCDO's vice-president for Professional Development. Keith brings a wealth of management experience to the table as a former Dickenson County, Virginia Administrator. He is also the current vice-president for the Little Ten Housing Authorities of Southwest Virginia.

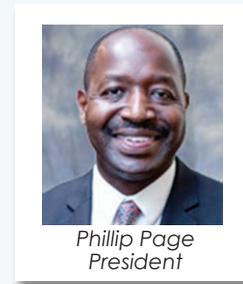
**Alisa Winston** is the deputy executive director for the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority. She has more than two decades of experience in housing and community development having worked in Suffolk, Chesapeake, and Newport News. Alisa holds a master's degree in urban planning from Norfolk State University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Hampton University. She serves on the board of directors for the Portsmouth Area Resources Coalition, Inc. and as the chairperson of housing for the Portsmouth NAACP. She is the vice-president for program services for VAHCDO.

**Lisa Porter** is the executive director/CEO of the Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority. She has nearly three decades of experience in affordable housing having worked for Cumberland Plateau, Marion and Yuma, AZ. Lisa is the Chairperson of SERC's small agency task force and is a member of the resolutions and executive committees. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia's College at Wise, is a past president of the Little Ten Housing Authorities of Southwest Virginia and is the past president of VAHCDO.

**Ed Ware** is the director of communications & government relations for the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority and serves on SERC's legislative committee. Ed is highly skilled in marketing, public relations, and public policy advocacy with a background utilizing these skills for subsidiaries of Fortune 500 firms. He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina and is VAHCDO's vice-president for public policy.

**VP for Housing:** VACANT

**Marcus Williamson** is the housing programs administrator for the Virginia Beach Department of Housing and Neighborhood Preservation. He has more than 16 years of housing experience having previously been employed by the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority in Ohio. Marcus holds a bachelor of science degree from Franklin University, and he is the VAHCDO vice-president at-large.



Phillip Page  
President



Keith Sherrill  
Senior Vice President



Gary Wasson  
Secretary



Lance Allen  
Treasurer



Alisa Winston  
V.P. Program Services



Keith Viers  
V.P. Professional Dev



John Bohm  
V.P. Community Dev



Diana Carter  
V.P. Communications/Membership



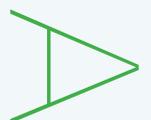
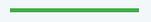
Lisa Porter  
Past President



Ed Ware  
V.P. Public Policy



Marcus Williamson  
V.P. at-Large





2017-2019

# WEST VIRGINIA | OFFICERS

WEST VIRGINIA



Jeff Knight  
President

**Jeff Knight** is the chief operations officer of the Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority, and has 21 years' experience in public housing. He is the president of WVAHA, and serves on SERC's legislative and RAD committees. Jeff received his bachelor's degree from the University of Charleston and his master's from the Ohio State University.



Vickie Lester  
Past President

**Vickie Lester** is the executive director of Huntington WV Housing Authority and president of the Housing Development Corporation. She has over 22 years' experience in public housing. She is the immediate past president of WV Association of Housing Agencies. She has an A.B.A in accounting and an R.B.A. in business administration from Marshall University. She is a graduate of the PHADA/Rutgers Executive Director Education Program. She holds a C11P certification for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. She serves on committees with SERC-NAHRO, NAHRO and is on the PHADA board of trustees.



Pauline Sturgill  
Vice President

**Pauline Sturgill** was hired in 2011 as the Williamson Housing Authority's executive director. She has 40 years of professional experience in rural community capacity building and leadership development. Sturgill holds a master's degree in political science from Marshall University, and is a graduate of the WVU Community Development Institute, the WV Higher Education Chancellor's Institute, the Diversity Leadership Academy of West Virginia, the REAL Entrepreneurship Institute, Leadership Plenty, the Grantsmanship Center, and the National Service Leadership Institute. Pauline lives with her husband of 41 years in Mingo County, on her family's ridgetop farm, which dates back to the mid-1800's.



Sharon Harmon  
Treasurer

**Sharon Harmon** is the executive director of Beckley Housing Authority and has worked for the agency a total of 34 years. She first served as administrative assistant to the director, then assistant director, and in September 2015, she accepted the position of executive director. Sharon is a graduate of Concord University with a bachelor's degree in business administration including concentrations in management and accounting. She is a certified public housing manager and successfully completed PHADA's Executive Director Education Program in January 2011.



Tammy Miller  
Secretary

**Tammy Miller** is the deputy director/director of finance of the Wheeling Housing Authority. She has ten years of public housing experience and serves as secretary of WVAHA. Tammy currently serves on SERC's youth leadership development and IRGE committees, as well as PHADA's legislative committee. She earned her bachelor's degree from West Liberty University and is a 2016 graduate of PHADA's Executive Director Education Program. She and her husband have an adult son, a daughter in law and two grandchildren. Tammy resides in Valley Grove, West Virginia.



LuAnne Bush  
V.P. Commissioners

**LuAnne H. Bush** is the vice-chairman of West Virginia's Clarksburg-Harrison Regional Housing Authority. She has a total of 14 years' experience with public housing in West Virginia and is active in her state association, where she currently serves as chairman of the commissioners' committee.



Karen Jacobson  
Board Member

**Karen C. Jacobson** is the executive director of the Randolph County Housing Authority (RCHA), where she has served since 2001. Ms. Jacobson also serves as part-time loan fund manager of Woodlands Community Lenders (WCL), a CDFI she co-founded in 2012. WCL provides loans and technical assistance to small businesses that need gap financing to start or expand in a three-county target area. She currently serves as the chairperson of the board of the West Virginia Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and as chairperson of the board of Fahe, a regional membership group on a mission to eliminate persistent poverty in Appalachia. She earned her MBA from Boston University in 1987. In 2013, she graduated from Achieving Excellence, an executive education program of the JFK School of Government at Harvard University.



Christal Crouso  
Board Member

**Christal Crouso** is the executive director of the Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority. She has been involved in the development of a multi-faceted home-ownership center which includes a full cycle lending, mortgage business, housing development and rehabilitation services, housing counseling program and a community development program called Morgantown Homecoming. Christal serves on the board of directors of Fahe, and the board of directors for the Community Housing Action Partnership. She serves on the loan committee for CommunityWorks in West Virginia. Christal lives in Fairmont with her husband Denny and her two boys Jacob and Jackson.



Belinda Harness  
Board Member

**Belinda Harness**, executive director of the Housing Authority of Mingo County. She graduated with a bachelors' degree from Marshall University in business accounting. She has 24 years with the Housing Authority of Mingo County doing a variety of positions that ended with her moving to the Executive Director. She is a board member of Community Works of West Virginia, volunteers throughout the community and church. Belinda has lived in Delbarton West Virginia her entire life where she raises her three daughters.

# SERC Fall Workshop 2019

## Big Ideas in the Big Easy

### I Opening Ceremonies

New Orleans is known and referred to by many names - the Crescent City, N'Awlins, NOLA, the Big Easy or even Paris of the South. With that in mind, "Big Ideas in the Big Easy" was selected by the planning committee as the theme for the 2018 Fall Workshop. This proved to be very appropriate as 400 plus attendees tackled big ideas in our ever-changing industry.

During his tenure, President Gilbert has led our group from port to port with the "Changes in Attitudes, Changes in Latitudes" 2017-2019 agenda. We have been able to leave a financial footprint in every city we have traveled, thanks to the generosity of our membership. The SERC Cares committee, chaired

*Continued on next page*



# SERC Fall Workshop 2018

## Big Ideas in the Big Easy

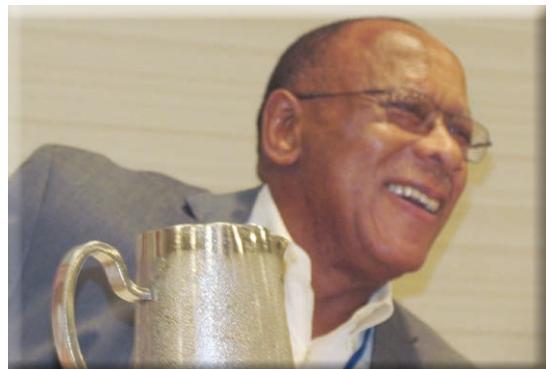
### Opening Ceremonies

by Reta Thomas, has encouraged all attendees to be generous givers, by placing a hand over their hearts and in their pockets and purses. Funds collected were given to preselected non-profit agencies to assist in the helping their less fortunate, under-served clients.

Quality training, networking opportunities and exchanging of ideas were successfully accomplished throughout this year's workshop. Commissioners training, along with training for new and experienced members on the topics of maintenance, public housing and finance were in abundance. With RAD being the new buzz word for the industry, session topics included the pros and cons of RAD. Answered questions helped authority representatives determine if RAD would a good fit for their agencies.

At the end of the sessions, a reception was provided.

*Continued on next page*



# SERC Fall Workshop 2018

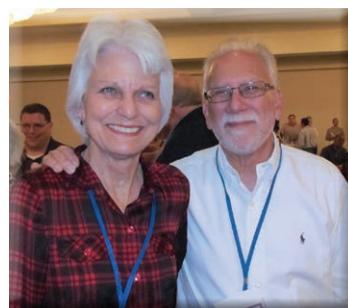
## Sessions

Following the reception, members were encouraged to venture out into the "Big Easy", if they had not done so, to enjoy the local culture and unique food that only New Orleans can provide. ■



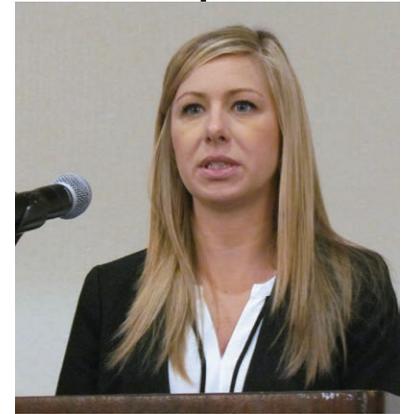
# SERC Fall Workshop 2018

# | Reception



# SERC Fall Workshop 2018

## Legislative



An early morning legislative meeting provided the opportunity to enjoy coffee and breakfast while receiving an update on the happenings in Washington. Tess Hembree, director of congressional relations for NAHRO, spoke of ways to improve communication with our government. She has worked in Washington, D.C. for nearly a decade in the housing and community development field, providing policy expertise and advocacy support to various organizations. Tess is a valuable resource to the housing industry and offers her expertise in navigating the legislative maze.



President Gilbert is encouraging all members to come to the 2019 SERC-NAHRO Annual Conference in Orlando, FL. Please visit the SERC-NAHRO website for additional details.

NAHRO 2019  
Washington Conference

**CONNECT  
TO PURPOSE**

April 7-9

Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel  
Arlington, VA



## On the soap box...

NOTE: This article was written prior to the end of the government shutdown.



Mike Sweet

Lately, I reflect that I haven't found much to say about the affordable housing issues pending in Washington, D.C. for longer than I like to contemplate. Other than recent concerns over the continuation of tax credits, it doesn't appear that much legislative movement is happening. Rather than regurgitate the same talking points that seem to be never-ending in our industry, I thought that (at my own

peril) I would share some personal reflections on the current state of affairs and the debacle that is our government in Washington, D.C.

When did it become acceptable practice to publicly demean one another in the national media? Going back in history all the way to the birth of our great nation, plentiful instances can be found where public/political figures have been lampooned or even called nasty names by the media. However, it seems to me that something has changed. Once where there was public outrage, it appears that the American people have become accepting of—or even encouraging—this disrespectful behavior. What used to be normal friction between parties with differing positions on the issues has become undeniable, out-and-out hostility. I believe that there is call for alarm when it has become "business as usual" for our public figures and the media to use profane or threatening language to describe one another on the national stage.

Our two party system of government is based on the premise of compromise. However, the parties will never be evenly matched, and one party will always hold more power than the other in the different branches of government. History has shown that the pendulum always swings one way or the other with time. It appears that, up until President Barack Obama's administration, everyone appreciated this as the normal progression and our representatives mostly worked together to address the needs of the citizenry and promote the success of our country. The dysfunction beginning in 2008 resulted in an executive branch that seemed very willing to govern through presidential decree or bureaucratic regulation rather than implementation of law put in place by the legislative branch. I believe that this is a dangerous situation that threatens the separation of powers crucial to our form of government. The parties must get back to a mutual respect of one another and willingness to compromise.

The national motto appearing on the great seal of the United States of America states "E Pluribus Unum." The translation of this Latin motto means—OUT OF MANY, ONE. I think that one of the founding fathers of our great country, Patrick Henry, caught the substance of this motto perfectly when he used a phrase in his last public speech, given in March 1799, where he said, "Let us trust God, and our better judgment, to set us right hereafter. United we stand, divided we fall. Let us not split into factions which must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs." Without a doubt, it is evident that the national media and many of our public figures want to divide us into adversarial factions. Democrat vs. Republican, liberal vs. conservative, left vs. right, etcetera, etcetera, and further divided by race, gender, ethnicity, social issue, and on and on. As I have lived my life, traveled the country and talked with friends and colleagues, one thing is pretty evident—Americans may have different ideas about the issues but most of us want what is best for our country and want to see it prosper. I believe that we all need to remember first and foremost that we are Americans before we are anything else. This one fact ties us all together as brother and sister.

A principal theme that has separated the United States of America from nearly every other nation in history is the concept of it being "a nation of laws, not a nation of men." This means that laws, not people, rule. Citizens are to be governed by the same laws, regardless of their station; whether it is the most common American, member of Congress, high-ranking bureaucrat or the president of the United States, all must be held accountable to the just laws of the United States of America. No one is, or can be allowed to be, above the law. Lately, it doesn't seem that a day passes without news of a state, county, city, government agency, politician or bureaucrat who is flouting the law of the land. The idea that the law can be disobeyed because it does not reconcile with a political agenda is a scary proposition. If one law can be ignored, then what is to stop others from being ignored? The law is what guarantees our rights, and we as Americans should demand that our fellow citizens, government agencies, and politicians follow the law.

In conclusion, I would like to share some simple rules that I have tried to live my life by that maybe our politicians could benefit from—

- 1. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect.**
- 2. It doesn't cost anything to be nice.**
- 3. Pick your battles.**

I hope that my ramblings have given you some measure of entertainment. As always, if you have suggestions or feedback, feel free to contact me—

**[chick604@bellsouth.net](mailto:chick604@bellsouth.net)**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS

# “WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME” *poster contest*

## STATE COMPETITION:

The State Association holds a poster contest submitted by local PHAs. The State Association selects a 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winner (for each category). The winning posters are submitted to compete in the SERC-NAHRO regional competition.

## SERC COMPETITION:

SERC-NAHRO holds a regional poster competition. NAHRO Fellows select a 1st place winner in each category. The winning posters are submitted to compete in the National Housing America competition.

## COMPETITION DETAILS:

### **3 Categories:**

Elementary (K-5th grade) | Middle School (6th-8th grade) | High School (9th-12th grade)

**Entry Requirements:** 22”x 28” landscape/horizontal poster board, the entries must be mailed flat, short essay explaining the design & entry forms.

SERC-NAHRO winners will be selected & announced at the Annual Conference. State entries must be submitted to SERC-NAHRO & received by **June 22, 2019**. Posters MUST be submitted through the State Association, in order to be eligible in the Regional & National competition.

**Mail:** J W Marriott Orlando 4040 Central Florida Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32837, Attn: Sharita Oates  
**Hand delivery:** To your State Emerging Leader at the J W Marriott Orlando – Grande Lakes

## ENTRY FORMS & RULES:

<http://www.housingamericacampaign.org/what-home-means-to-me.html>

If you have questions, please contact Sharita Oates at [soates@hacg.org](mailto:soates@hacg.org).

**PLEASE JOIN US @  
SERC Annual Conference & Exhibit - Orlando, FL  
June 23-26, 2019**

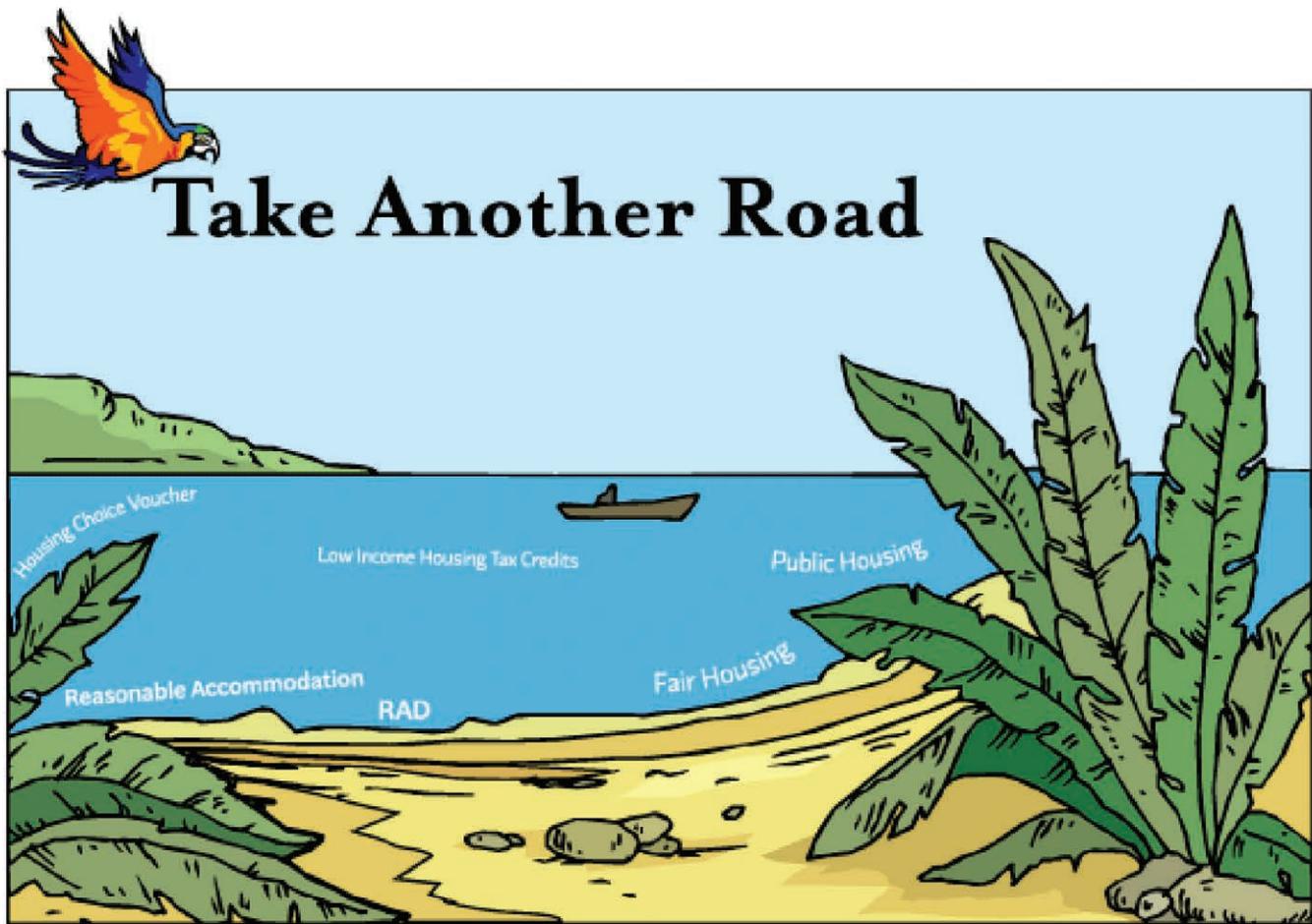


The SERC Cares committee continues to exceed its goals thanks to the generosity of members. The Fall Workshop was no exception. The Kingsley House was the chosen agency for the workshop. Donations throughout the 3-day workshop. The Kingsley House was founded in 1896, and the fundamental mission still remains the same, to serve individuals of all ages, ranging from six-week-old infants to senior citizens. Programs range from social services and family counseling to adult day care and senior services in New Orleans. The Kingsley House also provided housing to local residents in need after Hurricane Katrina.

The next SERC Cares recipient for the annual conference in Orlando will soon be announced. Each year, reach into their pockets and their hearts to help others.



Left to right: Ella Murphy–Augusta Housing Authority, Anna McRae–Monroe Housing Authority, Reta Thomas–Augusta Housing Authority and Pancea Lewis–Sumter Housing Authority.



## 2019 SERC-NAHRO Annual Conference

### JW Marriott - Orlando

### 23-26 June, 2019

### Orlando, Florida



# 2019 January 18-20 SERC MLK

George Bassi, director of the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, conducted most of the tour for participants and has been a long time partner of the LHA Executive Director Ailrick Young and Executive Director Abraham Williams of Bowling Green, NC.



1st place-18 and under-Alexander City Housing Authority,



2nd place-18 and under-Opelika Warriors, Opelika, AL

NOT PICTURED:

3rd place-18 and under-Phenix City, AL



1st place-15 and under-Fast and Furious - Eufaula, AL



2nd Place-15 and under HAGN Hornets-Goldsboro, NC



3rd place-15 and under Mobile Allstars-Mobile, AL



1st place -12 and under - Selma Housing Authority, AL



2nd Place-12 and under Boys Eufaula Fire



3rd place-12 and under Housing Authority of Bowling Green





## Eufaula Housing Authority *Excerpts from Representative Roby's Column*

Did you know that an estimated 4.9-million 16 to 24-year-olds in this country are not in school and are also unemployed? This is an unfortunate but true statistic, and roughly 3-million of these young people are living in poverty.

During the recent district work period, I had the opportunity to visit Eufaula Housing Authority's (EHA) YouthBuild program, an organization in Alabama's Second District that is really making a difference in the lives of such individuals in Barbour County. YouthBuild serves these out-of-school youth by providing them with the opportunity, hope, and support to rebuild their lives while equipping them with the necessary skills to facilitate success in both the workforce and their communities.

EHA's YouthBuild program serves young people ages 16 to 24 who are not currently enrolled in high school or have recently dropped out and re-entered. Participants also represent at least one of six disadvantaged groups: low-income household, parent(s) incarcerated, youth aging out of foster care, youth with a disability, homeless, and adjudicated. Students who meet these criteria must complete a three-week mental toughness orientation before being

accepted into the program. During this time, applicants learn more about YouthBuild, participate in daily physical training exercises, teambuilding activities, various skills workshops, and a community service assignment designed to teach the importance of giving back.

In addition to fostering personal growth and development, YouthBuild provides excellent educational opportunities for participants by partnering with Wallace Community College and the Eufaula Career Center. Because of these local partnerships, YouthBuild can offer classes for GED preparation, Ready-to-Work (soft skills certification), welding, air conditioning and refrigeration, and electrical line work. On top of these great opportunities, YouthBuild also offers its participants exceptional professional opportunities in construction. Students have the option to receive classroom and lab training and/or hands-on construction training. Oftentimes, these opportunities lead to paying jobs for students.

The YouthBuild philosophy is to convey the importance of post-secondary education as a vehicle for personal advancement and growth, and during my visit, it was very clear that this ideology truly guides the program and all the hardworking men and women who are dedicated to making it successful.

## BDO PHA Finance leads "Financial Hot Topics" workshop

The SERC education/training committee has been hard at work this year bringing several stand-alone training sessions around the region for public housing authority staff, including workshops on "Small Agencies Policies and Program Requirements", "RAD" and "UPCS". The most recent offering was a 3-day workshop on "Financial Hot Topics" led by Brian Alten of BDO PHA Finance and designed specifically for new executive directors and as a refresher for experienced executive directors.

Sixty-three attendees from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia participated in this outstanding workshop held at the Emerald Grande in beautiful Destin, Florida in October, during which we learned about financial hot topics including:

- **Cost allocation**
- **Procurement and internal controls**
- **LIPH budgeting and operating reserves**
- **Budgeting for the capital fund**
- **Operating fund calculation**
- **FDS**
- **Reading budgets vs. actual statements**
- **PHAS**
- **Audit reports**
- **HCV basics, budgeting, and monitoring funds**

"This was an outstanding class led by an outstanding presenter in a fabulous location", said Donna Gabel, Alabama committee member and coordinator for this training. "As a new executive director myself, this training was invaluable. Brian taught us in a way non-accounting people could understand, and I returned to my agency with a deeper understanding of PHA finances."

The SERC education/training committee continues to be hard at work to bring you the training you need. Look for more pertinent training in 2019!



## Florence Housing Authority Participates in educational festival

The first annual Fall Education Festival was held in October at the Housing Authority of Florence's Parkview Plaza in Florence, South Carolina. The festival was sponsored by Amemdisys, an organization that assists people with home health, hospice, and personal care services.

The festival provided a forum through which the residents could ask questions about diabetes, hospice, and recovering from illnesses, injuries and surgeries. Some residents won prizes by playing Hospice Jeopardy/101. The goal for the Fall Education Festival was to educate residents about different options for care at home including hospice.



## Greensboro Housing Authority- Local sorority helps GHA residents celebrate the holidays

The Greensboro alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta helped Greensboro Housing Authority's (GHA) Clarendon Courts community prepare to celebrate Christmas this year. The sorority's arts and letters committee plans events to promote the arts and display the talents of minority artists, while encouraging positive images and experiences. This GHA event combined arts and crafts with community service. In addition to the women of Delta Sigma Theta, participants from Delta Academy also helped plan and carry out this fun-filled event.

Attendees from the community enjoyed participating in numerous creative activities. The event featured eight different crafts for participants to create as gifts for friends or family members, including Christmas cards and a reindeer ornament. Children had the chance to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas while everyone enjoyed refreshments. Holiday music played throughout the community center, and Santa Claus gave away treat bags.

Over 70 residents attended this fun event and enjoyed celebrating the holiday season with neighbors while preparing gifts for their own celebrations. GHA is extremely thankful for all the Deltas' efforts toward making this a memorable event!



## Goldsboro Housing Authority (HACG)-Donuts for dad

Donuts for Dad was a huge success for The Housing Authority of the City of Goldsboro (HACG) youth! In a partnership with Dillard Middle School, HACG hosted dads, father figures, and male role models for breakfast the second week of school to show our youth and their teachers that we're here for them and that we support their efforts. Over 60 males took time out of their day to show these students that they care! We're super proud of this partnership and are planning more opportunities for our families to unite in the near future.



## HACG-Carolinas hosts youth leadership conference

The Carolina Youth Leadership Conference (CYLC) is sponsored by housing authorities across the southeast to ensure we are engaging, encouraging and equipping tomorrow's emerging leaders.

Our young residents had the opportunity to attend the conference and were inspired, engaged, and encouraged! The CYLC introduced these students to the leadership skills needed to navigate the road to success.

We want to thank the professionals who came out to speak with our youth and North Carolina Central University for allowing us to use and tour their campus.



## Danville Housing Authority—Danville opens Community Service Center for residents

All residents of the broader Danville/Boyle County community were invited to an open house on Thursday, January 24th to celebrate the opening of the Housing Authority of Danville's newly refurbished Community Service Center located at 121 Toombs Court in Danville.

Tim Kitts, executive director, identified an existing but under-utilized community room at one of the residential sites that could be used as a hub for resident services. Kitts implemented a new Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program last year and brought a trained social worker on board who coordinates resident services and community outreach programs. The Resident Services Program aims to enhance the lives of residents of all ages. Gwen Campbell, resident services coordinator, works with several community partners to promote activities and programs to support health and wellness, financial stability, and self-sufficiency. In addition, we continue to support our residents with special programs geared toward their specific needs.

As of now, the FSS program has seventeen residents enrolled who have set goals to make improvements in their lives—saving to buy a new vehicle, getting a job for regular income or finding a better paying job, learning new skills needed to qualify them for jobs in the area, improving credit scores, and participating in financial education and other training.

FSS participants meet regularly with Campbell who provides individual case management to ensure that they keep on track to reach their individual goals and connects them with resources for transportation, child care, substance abuse treatment options, education and training for household and work-ready skills.

Participants sign a contract and agree to be independent of assistance from federal or state welfare programs that provide any cash assistance for at least 12 months of their participation in the program. The head of household



*Gwen Campbell, Resident Services Coordinator*



must seek and maintain suitable employment. The contract can last up to 5 years, giving participants the opportunity to attain two goals they have chosen for themselves.

The center offers space for regular classes offered by several local health and human service partner agencies. It also includes a new computer lab with internet access, a printer, copier and fax equipment as well as assistance on computers from resident volunteers.

Kitts explained, "The Community Services Center will offer great programs to our residents, our FSS participants, and our entire community. Residents have a chance to learn and connect with the services provided by our community partners. The center will offer budgeting classes, cooking classes, after-school tutoring and much, much more. We hope residents will take full advantage of the offerings presented through the new Community Service Center."

Campbell has already moved her office to the Community Service Center. She will be available to meet with residents and work with community partners when she is not out in the field assisting individual residents and overseeing resident activities at some of the housing sites.

## Kentucky Housing Association—Annual conference

Kentucky Housing Association (KHA) hosted its annual conference in Louisville, September 23-26. Trainers from Nelrod and US Inspection Group conducted classes on public housing, Section 8, finance and maintenance.

The selected charity for the conference was Neighborhood House. Established in 1896, Neighborhood House is a community center that serves children and families living in Portland and surrounding low-income neighborhoods. They also provide educationally focused programs for all generations. They meet life needs, teach life skills and inspire life dreams. The participants of the KHA Annual Conference contributed gift cards and much needed items for Neighborhood House.



## Executive director retreat

Kentucky Housing Association held its 2018 Executive Director Conference December 9-12 at the Embassy Suites in Lexington, Kentucky. HUD Louisville staff conducted training for new and seasoned executive directors. James Bush from Arthur J. Gallagher spoke on the Kentucky Housing Association's Self Insurance Fund. Carol Spencer, executive director of HUD Louisville, finished up the training with discussion on HUD's new Repositioning Program and how that might affect some of Kentucky's housing authorities.

**KHA Mid-Year Conference  
February 17-20**

**KHA Maintenance Conference  
April 8-11**

## Americus Housing Authority –The end of an era; the turning of a page

December 31 marked the end of an era as well as the turning of a page in the history of the Americus Housing Authority as Mr. John C. 'Cal' Anderson retired from the position of chief executive officer. Cal, as he is commonly called by most people in GAHRA, retired after working 30-plus years in Americus. Overall he worked over 44 years in the housing industry, including at both Monroe and Dublin housing authorities prior to starting to work in Americus on January 4, 1988. Cal was instrumental in bringing many positive changes to the Americus Housing Authority. One of his most remembered accomplishments will always be helping to rebuild the city of Americus after the flood of 1994. Cal also served as a GAHRA officer. Through his leadership, the Americus Housing Authority became a high performance authority in many areas. Cal worked tirelessly to provide safe, affordable housing within the cities of Americus, Andersonville, Leslie and Plains, GA.

Cal is married to June Anderson who is a Christian book writer. Together they have two adult children, Anita Theiss and Jay Anderson. They are also the proud grandparents of Bowden, Callie, and Madilyn.



## Thomaston Housing Authority –Little library encourages residents to read

The Thomaston Housing Authority (THA) Youth Advisory Council installed its first of three community little libraries in the Triune Village community. The purpose of the project is to encourage reading in the THA communities. The little library is located in front of the main office on Triune Avenue. It contains books that were donated, as well as positive, handwritten messages on the exterior of the library from the Youth Advisory Council members to encourage reading. For example, "Let reading take you on an imaginary journey," was written by one of the members.

Thank you to our partner, AmeriGroup for the donation of the little library to Thomaston Housing Authority. With the help of our maintenance team, our Youth Advisory Council has successfully assembled and installed the library. Since our ribbon cutting in December, the library has already received visits and is sure to be a sensation with our residents.

One of the goals of the Youth Advisory Council is to have a little library in each community.



# MISSISSIPPI NEWS



## Starkville Housing Authority— Bridges out of Poverty grant provides art classes for students

The Starkville Housing Authority (SHA) has partnered with the Starkville Arts Council to provide after-school art classes. The classes are held every Tuesday at the SHA Literacy Center. After-school tutorial students have the opportunity to explore the world of art more in-depth through the program. The classes are taught by teaching artist Gerard Woods. Executive Director Amy Bishop hopes that the program will provide a positive way for students to express themselves. The program is sponsored through a grant from Starkville Bridges out of Poverty.



## Laurel Housing Authority— conducts booktacular

The Laurel Housing Authority (LHA) brought joy to many young residents through their Booktacular Event. The event, held by LHA officials and staff, was styled as a block party on Leontyne Price Boulevard on Halloween night. As part of the celebration, the staff and community volunteers dressed in costumes and provided plenty of candy, free food and music for the youth to enjoy. Participants also received free books from the Laurel/Jones County Library and safety lessons from members of the Laurel Fire Department.



*Photos by Eloria Newell James*  
On October 31, young residents gathered on Leontyne Price Boulevard to participate in the Laurel Housing Authority's Booktacular Event.



## MRHA7—FSS-FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The Family Self-Sufficiency Department of Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VII in McComb received a certificate of excellent performance for enabling HUD-assisted families to increase their earned income and reduce their dependency on welfare assistance and rental subsidies. The certificate was given from the HUD Field Office in Jackson, MS. Family Self-Sufficiency coordinators are from left to right: Bernie Hollaway, Mary Gallagher, Alesia Butler and Kristie Jordan

## MRHA VI—provides gifts for the community

Instead of pulling names for a company-wide gift exchange, employees at the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VI (MRHA VI) in Jackson decided to spread a little holiday cheer to those who need it the most. They collectively purchased a large supply of personal items to fill BLESSING BAGS for individuals in need. Thanks to the kindness of so many of the staff, they were able to prepare 40 drawstring packs of necessities. The bags included a variety of hats, gloves, socks, blankets, soap, lotions, hand sanitizers, deodorant, toothbrushes & toothpaste, and some non-perishable food items. This community outreach effort was a tremendous success! Several staff members traveled throughout the



city of Jackson on December 21, distributing the bags at shelters and to homeless individuals. The kindness of the MRHA VI staff was well received and put smiles on the faces of many individuals. The BLESSING BAGS also blessed the staff with the joy received from helping others. "I feel like I have really done something to help someone today, and that is better than any material gift I could receive," stated one participant.

## KCDC to issue vouchers to help families reunite, assist young adults leaving foster care

Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) has been awarded Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Family Unification Program (FUP) to serve two populations within the foster care program.

The 18 vouchers will assist families for which living conditions are the only obstacle preventing them from being reunited with children in foster care and also help young adults who age out of the foster care program. Voucher recipients will be referred by the Tennessee Department of Children's Services.

Families can be delayed in being reunited with their children in the foster care program if they lack adequate housing due to dilapidated or overcrowded conditions or an imminent risk of losing the home. The FUP vouchers can be used to subsidize housing costs for an appropriate leased unit, enabling families to reunite.

Another need within the foster care system is to assist young adults who age out of the foster care program and need to find affordable housing. The vouchers can subsidize appropriate housing for up to three years for young adults ages 18-24 who are homeless or at risk to be homeless. In addition to housing assistance, young adults can receive other support services during the transition, such as money management skills, job preparation, educational counseling, proper nutrition and meal preparation.

"These Family Unification Program vouchers allow us to serve two vulnerable populations within the foster care program," KCDC Executive Director and CEO Ben Bentley said. "These vouchers will help keep families together and provide a platform for youth to achieve self-sufficiency."

KCDC's Section 8 Housing office, led by director Debbie Taylor-Allen, secured the FUP vouchers through a competitive process. In total, 68 housing vouchers have been added this year to the KCDC portfolio, bringing the total to 4,026.

## KCDC earns high-performer status from HUD

Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) earned high-performer status from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) following an assessment review.

KCDC's high-performer status for the fiscal year ending in June 2018 falls under the Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP), the federal agency's primary tool for evaluating Section 8 performance.

The SEMAP review considers 15 performance indicators related to rent calculation, rental rates, leasing and unit quality. KCDC earned a score of 105 percent after receiving maximum points in all categories in addition to a bonus for the use of mixed income housing and deconcentrating poverty.

KCDC administers several Section 8 housing programs that provide housing assistance to low-income families in the private rental market, including The Housing Choice Voucher Program, which includes Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing and Homeownership programs, the Moderate Rehabilitation Program and Family Self-Sufficiency programs. KCDC receives approximately \$22 million per year to fund up to 4,008 vouchers for Section 8 housing.

"I am particularly proud of the bonus points in this evaluation, as they indicate that the majority of families in KCDC's Section 8 voucher programs find homes in low-poverty areas," KCDC Executive Director Ben Bentley said. "Studies show that area of residence can influence future educational and employment success, and this is another way that KCDC can help improve quality of life for the residents we serve."



## TAHRA—Day on the Hill a huge success!

Over twenty housing authorities from across the state were in Nashville on Tuesday, February 5, for the TAHRA Day on the Hill event. The event was a success with over 50 legislators stopping by to learn more about TAHRA while enjoying Chick-Fil-A biscuits and coffee. Legislators were provided a TAHRA coffee mug and a TAHRA directory along with information regarding TAHRA's position on the Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act (URLTA). TAHRA members fanned out after the breakfast to distribute the mugs, directories and position papers to the offices of the legislators who were not able to attend the breakfast. Several TAHRA members took the opportunity to meet with their legislators in their offices. The entire group was recognized at the beginning of the Senate's state and local government committee meeting, and it was a powerful showing to have over 20 housing authorities being recognized together.

The event is very important to our organization as it strengthens relationships with our legislators so TAHRA members will become their go-to resource on housing issues.

# VIRGINIA NEWS



## VAHCDO—fair housing seminar

In November, a Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act—Fair Housing seminar was attended by approximately 30 participants in Bristol. This annual training event, sponsored by the Virginia Association of Housing & Community Development Officials, was facilitated by John G. “Chip” Dicks, III, president of FutureLaw Real Estate School, LLC. The training was offered a second time on December 4 in Newport News, where an estimated 60 attendees participated in the event.



## LEGAL & POLICY SEMINAR

The Virginia Association of Housing & Community Development Officials (VAHCDO) held its annual Legal and Policy Seminar November 29 – 30, at the Omni Hotel in Richmond. Thursday night speakers included Ms. Sim Wimbush, executive director, Virginia Housing Alliance and Ms. Angela Navarro, deputy secretary of commerce and trade. Friday morning speakers were Ms. Christine E. Marra, Esq., director of Advocates for Credit, Employment and Shelter (ACES), a program of the Virginia legal aid community; Mr. Darius K. Davenport, Crenshaw, Ware & Martin, PLC, and Mr. Georgi Banna, director of policy and program development for NAHRO.



The VAHCDO Legal & Policy Seminar is a must for housing authority leaders, municipal community development officials, and attorneys in attendance. A VAHCDO board meeting followed the seminar.

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## Bristol Housing Authority— Holds reception to commemorate Bonham Circle demolition

The Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority hosted a ceremony in December to commemorate the final demolition phase of four remaining buildings at the Bonham Circle property.

These buildings were constructed in the 1950s and updated in the 1990s. They have aged to the point where it is a more viable, cost-effective option to have them removed so we can repurpose this area for our residential community. Over the next few months, this area will be transformed into a green space, and may be developed in the future for other housing purposes. The Bristol Herald Courier provided media coverage as we began physical demolition of the remaining buildings at Bonham Circle.



ABOVE RIGHT: Executive Director Lisa R. Porter pictured with Mr. Cliff Millirons of Virginia Housing Development Authority.



ABOVE: Lisa R. Porter with BRHA Chairman of the Board Jerry Chorosevic, Sr. and Vice-Chairman Gary Poulton.

## Chesapeake Housing Authority— Sharing the spirit—Christmas stockings for children

The children living in Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) public housing received an extra treat with the distribution of nearly 840 Christmas stockings. Thanks to a generous donation from the authority's attorney, Delphine Carnes of Crenshaw, Ware & Martin, PLC, every child living in Chesapeake's public housing received a special stocking filled with good cheer and goodies along with a book donated by Virginia Cooperative Extension!

Ms. Carnes, her associate Harriett Reynolds, and CRHA staff came together to fill 840 fluffy, red stockings with candy, fruit snacks, cheese crackers, fresh fruit and small toys for the children fourteen and under. Earbuds, a drawstring backpack and hand sanitizer were substituted for the toys in the stockings for residents between the ages of fifteen and eighteen.

Ms. Carnes shared her wish to bring some holiday cheer to the residents, "I am proud to provide the financial support needed to purchase and fill Christmas stockings for all the children and youth who reside in CRHA's public housing." Of course, the CRHA elves (staff) were more than happy for the opportunity to work with her and make a little Christmas magic happen.



Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority-THANKFUL VALLEY FARMS

Beginning in November 2018, Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority collaborated with Thankful Valley Farms for a mobile farmers market at public housing sites. This mobile farmers market visits sites on a weekly or monthly basis, depending on the need, with fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and Amish goods. Thankful Valley Farms accepts many forms of payment including cash, check, credit card, debit card, and SNAP. They also participate in double SNAP benefits, which doubles or triples the dollar amount of SNAP benefits spent at the farmers market. For example, \$1 of SNAP equals \$2 when you are a single family. If you are a family with a child, \$1 of SNAP equals \$3. Thankful Valley Farms also offers delivery of grocery items to residents on the days they are on site for farmers market. One resident said, "I enjoy buying farm fresh eggs, and don't have to go anywhere to get them." This collaboration has truly proven to be beneficial to our residents!



Need a group medical plan?  
**We've got you covered!**

HBP is a medical plan for housing authorities within the SERC and SWRC regions. It is governed by Executive Directors who participate in the plan, assuring that each decision made affects the Board Member, just as it does all other participants. HUD does not require that employee benefit plans be competitively bid.

- Choice of medical plans
- Utilizes the United Healthcare medical & dental networks
- UHC programs offered: Real Appeal – lasting weight loss, Virtual Visits – doctor visits over a phone or computer without an appointment, Rally – interactive personalized health & wellness experience
- VSP or UHC vision plans
- Life and Disability coverage through The Standard

For benefits and rates contact  
Susan or Daniel Strange  
sstrange@oecwildblue.com  
dan@callhsa.com  
318-377-9268  
www.housingbp.com



# 2019 SERC ANNUAL AWARDS

## *NEWSLETTER of the Year Award & Best WEBSITE of the Year Award*

### Categories:

- Small Public Housing Agency: 0-250 total units
- Medium Public Housing Agency 251-500 total units
- Large Public Housing Agency 501-1500 total units
- Extra Large Public Housing Agency 1501+ total units

### Eligible applicants:

- Public housing authorities that are members in good standing with SERC-NAHRO

### How to enter:

- Each **state** representing SERC-NAHRO will hold their state's individual competition and forward their winning entries to the public affairs/SERCulator committee by **April 26, 2019**.
- Newsletters will be judged on appearance, clarity, format, content and structure. Submission may be electronically submitted or by hard copy and must have been published in the last 12 months.
- The winning PHA's websites from each state will be submitted to the judges. Websites will be judged on the following seven criteria on a scale of 0-10 points: color and design; innovation; content; technology; interactivity; copywriting; user friendly.
- Winners will be announced at the SERC Annual Conference.

### Submissions:

- **State winners** may submit newsletters as hard copies or electronically as a pdf. Authorities eligible for the website should also be submitted by the deadline of **April 26, 2019**.
- Mailing address:
  - L. Reta Thomas  
Augusta Housing Authority  
1435 Walton Way Augusta, GA 30901  
Or

[rthomas@augustapha.org](mailto:rthomas@augustapha.org)



SERC EVENTS | Around the region



What's on the agenda around SERC

FEBRUARY 2019

KY Housing Association Mid Year Conference—February 18-21  
The Galt House Hotel  
Louisville, KY  
MAHRO Maintenance Workshop—February 21-23  
Gold Strike Resort and Casino  
Tunica, MS

MARCH 2019

SERC-NAHRO Spring Committee Meetings—March 15-16  
Chattanooga Marriott Downtown  
Chattanooga, TN

APRIL 2019

MAHRO Commissioner's Conference—April 8-10  
Imperial Palace Casino  
Biloxi, MS  
KY Housing Association Maintenance Workshop—April 9-12  
Horseshoe Southern Indiana  
Elizabeth, IN  
TAHRA Spring Workshop— April 15-18  
Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro  
Murfreesboro, TN  
NAHRO Washington Conference—April 22-24  
Crystal Gateway Marriot Hotel  
Arlington, VA

MAY 2019

GAHRA Spring Workshop—May 19-21  
Westin Hotel at Jekyll Island  
Jekyll Island, GA

2019 SERCulator Deadlines

- Spring..... March 15
- Summer ..... May 15
- Fall..... September 15
- Winter .....December 15

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Each SERC member receives one FREE copy of the SERCulator.

Additional copies: \$7.50 each

Discounted yearly rate: \$25.00 subscription

Archive issues for 2016, 2017 and 2018 available.