

Winter 2020

SERculator

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

Waves

of

CHANGE

Oceans *of* **OPPORTUNITIES**

2020 SERC-NAHRO Annual Conference
June 21-24
Boca Raton Resort & Club

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Paula Robertson, PR Designs

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- Florida Lisa Landers
- Georgia Reta Thomas (chair)
- Valerie Sneed
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- North Carolina Anna McRae
- South Carolina..... Pancea Lewis
- West Virginia Pauline Sturgill

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: **Paula Robertson, 662-268-8402, email: pauladesigns22@gmail.com or Reta Thomas, email: rthomas@augustapha.org**

President's Message

Happy New Year –2020

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and are having a great New Year. We will soon transition from winter to spring and with that I hope we're all focused on the new opportunities this year may bring.

We're starting our advocacy efforts as we prepare for our annual trip to the NAHRO 2020 Washington Conference. Please note that NAHRO's Director of Congressional Relations, Tess Hembree has arranged for NAHRO to provide a service to assist in scheduling Congressional visits. To take advantage of this service contact THembree@nahro.org. SERC-NAHRO's Legislative Committee lead by Mike Sweet has drafted a position paper on behalf of SERC-NAHRO which will be presented to the Executive Committee at Muscle Shoals on Saturday, March 14, 2020 and will be available to you to present to our Congressional members during our hill visits. A copy of NAHRO's 2020 priorities may be viewed at www.nahroblog.org.

The Youth Leadership committee had another successful basketball tournament in Birmingham over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. The committee is currently working on an initiative to bring STEM programming to housing authorities and has started a survey to determine interest. For additional information contact twachs@eufaulahousing.com.

I would like to offer you the following reminders:

- 2020 NAHRO Merit College Scholarship–this program awards \$1,000 to eight scholars, one from each NAHRO region, who are pursuing their first post-secondary degree. For SERC, one application is due from each of the ten states by June 1, 2020. The completed



Mark Taylor
SERC-NAHRO PRESIDENT

application and all required documentation should be sent to the Scholarship Committee Chair, Carmen Easter at ceaster@ckha.com.

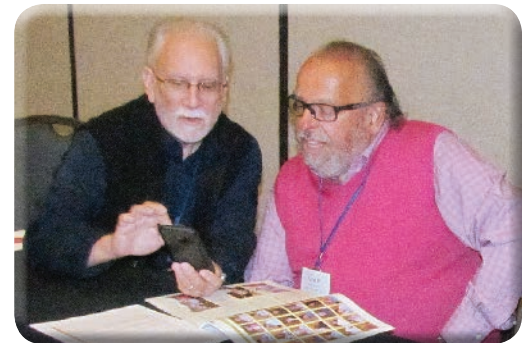
- Housing America, "What Home Means to Me" poster contest –open to all children in grades K–12 residing in affordable housing administered by a NAHRO member authority. Age categories Elementary K–5th; Middle School 6th–8th; and High School 9th–12th.

Local agencies must submit their entries to their state association. Each state will then submit their entries to the regional competition. SERC will judge entries in June and submit the first-place winners to NAHRO by August 7, 2020. Contact your State President/Representative for details.

- Awards for SERC-NAHRO–will be presented at the Boca Raton Resort in Boca Raton, Florida on Sunday, June 21, 2020. Categories are: Outstanding Performer, Hall of Fame, Award of Excellence, Award of Merit, Future of Vision Award, Award of Commitment, Community Impact Award, Resident Service Award, and Development Award. Contact your State President/Representative for details.

I invite you to make plans to attend the SERC Annual Conference in Boca Raton, Florida June 21 -24. The annual conference committee has developed a program designed to meet diverse educational needs for everyone who attends.

As always, I thank each of you for the services provided to residents and for making our communities stronger.



SERC life members attend fall workshop.



SERC Officers | 2019-2021



PRESIDENT

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VP of CR&D

James Cox
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Chief Operating Officer
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VP OF COMMISSIONERS

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Mark E. Taylor is the CEO of the Charleston-Kenawha Housing Authority. He has over 19 years of experience in public housing and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting. Mark is a district two board member for WVAHA. He will be serving as President for SERC. He has served as senior vice president, past treasurer and past vice president for housing and for CR&D.

Shaundra Clark of Tifton, GA is the current vice president for SERC. Shaundra serves as executive director at the Tifton Housing Authority and has over 26 years of 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 nominations 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, a high performing agency that serves more than 12% of the citizens of Wayne County, NC. Over the past 15 years, Anthony has been the recipient of numerous agency awards; he has served on several boards and held various leadership positions. Goodson is passionate about investing in the next generation, making it a priority to take time from his hectic schedule to greet kids most mornings as they enter school. He has facilitated a book club for boys on his days off, and annually takes underprivileged youth outside of their typical environment with his signature program entitled, "Hangin w/the CEO!"

Michael Wong is the executive director of the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. He has 20 years of 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 32 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. She has served on several other SERC committees to include, 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 36 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.

Shauna Boom has 20 years of service in public housing and has served as executive director of Kentucky's Owensboro Housing Authority for the past year. She is president of KHA, and serves on SERC's professional development and executive committees. Shauna has a bachelor's degree in administration of justice.

James Cox is the chief operating officer with the Greensboro Housing Authority. He will be serving as vice president of CR&D on the SERC board for 2019-2021.

Johnny Johnson of Houston, MS has served as president of Regional Housing Authority IV Board for the past 22 years. He currently serves as the president of commissioners for the South Eastern Regional Housing Authority. He received "Commissioner of the Year" for the National Association of Housing for the year 2013. Johnny is retired from the military where he was a bronze star recipient, and is a retired educator having taught in both the Mississippi and Alabama public school systems. His other community service includes serving as the grand senior warden for the M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge for the State of Mississippi. He is the worshipful master for McIntosh Lodge #80, in Houston, MS. He served on the State of Mississippi Personnel Board as president, Hospital Auxiliary Board, Chamber of Commerce Board, United Way Education Chairman, and the CAFB Community Council.

SERC Committee | Chairs | 2019-2021

Executive Committee

STEERING COMMITTEE

President	Mark Taylor	WV
Sr. VP	Shaundra Clark	GA
Secretary	Anthony Goodson	NC
Treasurer	Michael Wong	VA
VP Commissioners	Johnny Johnson	MS
VP Housing	Cindy Preast-Harrington	WV
VP CR&D	James Cox	NC
VP Professional Development	Jan Piersol	SC
VP Member Services	Shauna Boom	KY

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

AL	Beverly Barber	
FL	Debbie Johnson	
GA	Reta Thomas	
KY	Stephen Parker	
MS	Brian Power	
NC	Vivian Perry	
SC	Robbie Littlejohn	
TN	Paul Dellinger	
VA	Phillip Page	
WV	Pauline Stugill	

PAST PRESIDENTS

Immediate PP	Sean Gilbert	TN
Second PP	Dave Baldwin	VA
Third PP	Ailrick Young	MS

President's Portfolio

ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

2020–Boca Raton, FL

Conference Chair	Candice Drake (Co-Chair)	GA
Program Chairperson	Connie Howard	SC
Exhibits Chairperson	Susan Lillis	KY
Registration	Jake Oglesby	GA
	Mike Raburn	GA
Opening Ceremony	Gerald Board	KY
Ushers	Charlie Harrington	VA
Awards Ceremony	Sabrina Woodard	TN
		VA
Golf Tournament	Tom Wachs	AL

2021–Louisville, KY

Conference Chair	Shannon Biggs (Co-Chair)	KY
Program Chairperson	Connie Howard	SC
Exhibits Chairperson	Susan Lillis	KY
Registration	Jake Oglesby	GA
	Mike Raburn	GA
Opening Ceremony	Gerald Board	KY
Ushers	Charlie Harrington	VA
Awards Ceremony	Sabrina Woodard	TN
		VA
Golf Tournament	Tom Wachs	AL
Hospitality	Jan Piersol	SC
	Carrie Epting (Co-Chair)	SC

RAD

Emerging Leaders

Small Agency Task Force

Youth Leadership Development

Executive Committee Coordinator

Strategic Plan Coordinator

Senior Vice President's Portfolio

Budget Committee

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

Legislative Committee

PA member:	Mike Sweet (Chair)	AL
PA member:	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

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

Intern'l Research & Global Exchange

Site Selection Committee	Henrietta Snipes (Chair)	AL
	Jake Oglesby, Co-Chair	GA
	Sean Gilbert, Co-Chair	TN

Secretary's Portfolio

History/Archival Committee

Resolutions	Joyce Wolen (Chair)	WV
	Shante Evans (Chair)	SC

Treasurer's Portfolio

VP Housing's Portfolio

Housing Committee	Ginger Ming (Chair)	MS
Rental Assistance Committee	Elizabeth Garriss (Chair)	SC

VP CR&D's Portfolio

C R & D Committee	Joyce Floyd (Chair)	TN
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VP Professional Development's Portfolio

Professional Development	Jan Piersol	
Administrative Practice	Donna Lamer (Chair)	SC
Education and Training	Douglas Freeman (Chair)	GA
	Donna Gabel (Chair)	WV

VP Member Services' Portfolio

Public Affairs/SERCulator	Shauna Boom	
Member Services	Reta Thomas (Chair)	GA
Scholarship	Danny Walker (Chair)	AL
	Carmen Easter, Chair	WV

Insurance-Housing Benefits Plan

Retirement-HART	Don Clemons	
	Ed Johnston	

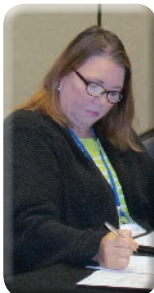
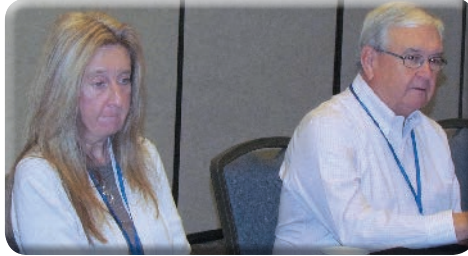
VP Commissioners' Portfolio

Commissioners	Johnny Johnson	
	Harry Howe (Chair)	VA

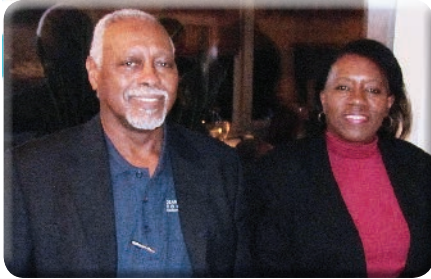


Chairs / Committee Meetings

Individually, we are
one drop.
Together,
we are an ocean.
Ryunosuke Satoro



Chairs / Committee Meetings



*"I can do things you cannot,
you can do things I cannot; together
we can do great things."*

~Mother Teresa



Executive Committee Meeting



2019-2021 Small Agency Task Force (SATF)

Name	State	PHA	Phone	Email
Jones, Ron	AL	Clanton Housing Authority	205-755-1801	ronmjones@bellsouth.net
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Bass, Ruth	GA	LaFayette Housing Authority	706-638-2733	ruth@lafayetteha.com
Evans, Kelly	GA	East Georgia Housing Authority Partners	706-690-1149	kelly.evans@thonsenhousing.org
Nast, Russell (Vice-Chair)	GA	Tallapoosa Housing Authority	770-574-2207	tallapha@mindspring.com
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Joyner, Sherry	SC	Conway Housing Authority	843-248-7327	ha@sc.rr.com
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Smith, Brittany	WV	Williamson Housing Authority	304-235-3270	bsmith_wha@frontier.com

AAHRA | OFFICERS



Beverly Barber
PRESIDENT

Beverly Barber serves as executive director of Opp Housing Authority and has over 28 years of experience in the public housing industry. She is a graduate of Troy University with a bachelor of science degree in business administration/finance. She attended Capella University studying towards a master's degree in public administration. Beverly serves as president of the Alabama Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities. She is married to Johnny Barber, and they have three children and one grandson.



Ron Jones
VICE PRESIDENT

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 vice president of AAHRA. Ron is the chairperson for site selection committee and vendor committee. He holds a bachelor's degree from Valdosta State University.

Carolyn Sutley is heretofore executive director of the Enterprise Housing Authority and a longtime member of AAHRA. Previous positions held by Carolyn in AAHRA include president, secretary, treasurer, convention chairperson; she has also served in numerous committee positions. In 2016, she retired from the Enterprise Housing Authority and continues to do consulting work and accounting. She says that being a grandmother and being retired are the best jobs she has ever had!



CAROLYN SUTLEY
TREASURER

Leigh W. Chappell is the executive director of the Housing Authority of the city of Hartselle. She received her bachelors of science degree from Athens State College in human resource management and psychology, and has completed numerous leadership and public housing management courses. Her professional affiliations include the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities and the Alabama Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (AAHRA). Chappell is a past member of the board of directors for AAHRA.

Dannie R. Walker serves as executive director of the Ozark Housing Community. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1981 with a BBA in accounting; he also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dannie is the immediate past president of the Alabama Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities. He has more than 25 years of management experience in the public housing industry. Dannie is married to Queen Walker, and they have two adult sons and five grandchildren (three grandsons & two granddaughters).

Shana B. Demby is the executive director for the Enterprise Housing Authority. She is a graduate of Georgia Southern University with an undergraduate degree in political science and a graduate degree in human resource management. She is the mother to a freshman in college and a 6-year-old Labradoodle. Her husband of 22 years is retired from military service. Demby's journey in the housing industry started in 1990 at the Enterprise Housing Authority as the Section 8 Occupancy Specialist where she learned the importance of serving the community and helping individuals become self-sufficient.



Leigh Chappell
SECRETARY

Cortney J. Coleman is the executive director of the Housing Authority of the city of Bessemer. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a bachelor of accounting. Coleman is active in his state association, Alabama Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (AAHRA), and Southeastern Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (SERC-NAHRO). He is on the board of directors of the Clay House Outreach Center. Coleman is also a certified public accountant.

Julie Word has served as the executive director of the Boaz Housing Authority since 2016. She began her career in public housing in 2009 at the Attalla Housing Authority. Julie has been a part of the AAHRA family for many years, though. Her father, Wayne East, was the executive director at the Gadsden Housing Authority for 25 years until retirement. Word is a graduate of Auburn University with a degree in management information systems. Prior to working in public housing, she worked for a banking software company and traveled the country training bank staff on fraud prevention software. She lives in Gadsden, Alabama and is married with two children

Bobby Jones is the executive director for the Andalusia Housing Authority. He and his wife Susan have been married for 33 years. He is the father of two children and grandfather of four. You will find him spending most evenings with the grandkids as the children will allow. Johns is a graduate of Troy State University with an undergraduate degree in business administration. He started his career in the military where he served with the Navy and then did active duty in the Army National Guard. He worked in the telephone industry for 25 years before starting his housing career in 2017.



Dannie Walker
PAST PRESIDENT



Shana B. Demby
MEMBER



Cortney J. Coleman
MEMBER



Julie Word
MEMBER



Bobby Jones
MEMBER



Vivian Perry
PRESIDENT

Vivian Perry is a native of Dunn, North Carolina, received an associate's degree from Sampson Community College. Her career in housing began in 1983 with the Laurinburg Housing Authority. She also worked for the Maxton Housing Authority, and currently serves as the deputy executive director for the Kinston Housing Authority. Perry and her husband Kenneth are the proud parents of two children, both North Carolina A & T Aggie graduates. They have four grandchildren and one grand dog.



Robbie Littlejohn
VICE PRESIDENT

Robbie D. Littlejohn is the executive director of South Carolina's Union Housing Authority. He has 11 years of experience in public housing and currently serves as president elect of CCHRCO. He earned his bachelor's degree from Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC. He is a NAHRO-certified public housing manager and a graduate of PHADA's and Rutgers University's executive director education program. He currently serves as treasurer of the South Carolina Association of Housing Authorities Executive Directors. He is retired from the South Carolina Army National Guard and is a past member of SERC's housing committee. He is married to Wanda Littlejohn, and they have two sons.



Michael Dineen
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Dineen is the executive director of the Lenoir Housing Authority in North Carolina and has over fifteen years of experience in public housing in North Carolina and Georgia. He serves as the senior vice president of the CCHRCO and the president of NCHADA. He is an veteran of the U.S. Army and also served as a police officer in Georgia for ten years. Michael graduated with his bachelor's degree at Shorter University in Rome, GA. He is Married to Jennifer and they have three children.

Ivory Mathews is the executive director of the Greenville Housing Authority (GHA). She has over 20 years of affordable housing experience. Prior to joining GHA, Mathews was deputy executive director for the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority in Toledo, Ohio, and spent a decade at the Aiken Housing Authority (AHA) in South Carolina with the last three years of her tenure there as chief executive officer (CEO). She holds a master of science in the foundations of education with a concentration in counseling & psychology from Troy State University-Augusta in Georgia and a bachelor's of arts in sociology from Newberry College in South Carolina. Mathews also holds several nationally recognized certifications in the affordable housing arena. She is married to Donnie Mathews, and they are the proud parents of two children, Mahogany, 13 and Dalton, 8.



Ivory Mathews
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Wendy Ellis is the executive director of the Farmville Housing Authority in Farmville, North Carolina. She has nearly 20 years of housing and currently serves as treasurer of CCHRCO. She is the proud mother of one son and a new grandmother.

Gray Mathis is the executive director of Eastern Carolina Regional Housing Authority. Mathis has over 10 years as an executive director in public housing and have over 25 years as a vice president in banking.

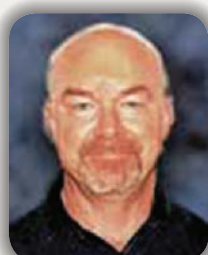
Randy Mathis is the executive director of the Gaffney Housing Authority of South Carolina. He has 44 years of service in public housing, with 25 years as an executive director. He sevres as past president CCHRCO. Randy received his bachelor's degree in business administration from James Madison University.



Wendy Ellis
Treasurer



Gray Mathis
Secretary



Randy Mathis
PAST PRESIDENT

FAHRO | OFFICERS

Florida



Dr. Anthony E. Woods
PRESIDENT

Dr. Anthony E. Woods is the president and CEO of Palatka Housing Authority. He holds a doctorate of theology from Grace Theological Seminary, a bachelor's degree in business administration from Alcorn State University and a master's degree in business administration from William Carey University. Dr. Woods has served on many local, state, regional and national boards. He also holds numerous licenses and certifications, and he has served in many positions of leadership within the housing industry. He has dedicated more than 25 years to providing affordable housing for those in need. Dr. Woods is married to Foidaliza Woods, and they have six children, four daughters and two sons.

Shannon Young has been with the Seminole County Housing Authority for 13 years. She is currently the president elect of FAHRO and has served on SERC committees since 2013. She also serves on the PHADA Bollinger scholarship committee.

Debbie Johnson is the immediate pas 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. Abe Singh is the executive director of the Area Housing Commission in Pensacola, FL. In April 2018, He has over ten years of in public housing and currently serves as the vice president/treasurer of FAHRO.

William Russell III is CEO of the Sarasota Housing Authority and has over 18 years of experience in the housing industry. He is serving as vice president/secretary 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 creativity to all her projects. She lives in Tallahassee with her husband Steve and is a home chef who also enjoys boating and fishing.

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 of 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.

Catherine Reddick is the executive director of the Housing Authority of Bartow. Prior to accepting the director's job in Bartow, she was housing authority director for the Winter Haven Housing. Her extensive background in Public Service dates back to 1972 where she was employed as office clerk for the city of Haines City, Florida. She later served as the director of community development for the board of county. Reddick graduated from Jewett High School in Winter Haven and attended Polk Vocational Technical Center where she received certification in general office practices. She is a certified housing manager and financial manager of housing from National Center of Housing Management.

Phillip O. Goomb is a 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 is the current executive director at Arcadia Housing Authority, and she has worked in the public housing field since 1995. In 2014, Mercer completed the HUD Recovery Plan to have her agency removed from the "troubled list." A graduate of the Executive Director Education Program of PHADA and Rutgers University, Mercer has spent her entire career helping people by maintaining community relations and being an active community partner for non-HUD programs. She serves on several committees of FAHRO and is also an active member of SERC-NAHRO and PHADA. She and her husband Frank have five adult children and three grandchildren.

Lisa Jones Watkins serves as executive director of the Winter Haven Housing Authority. A graduate of Florida A&M University with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Watkins has pursued advanced studies in public administration at the University of South Florida. She's also a graduate of the Executive Director's Certification Program at Rutgers University's Center for Government Studies. Watkins is a board member for FAHRO, a member of the city of Winter Haven's affordable housing committee, a member of the Winter Haven Leadership Class of 35 and Polk Leadership Class 11, a member of the governance board of the Lakeland/Winter Haven Polk County Continuum of Care, a volunteer teacher for Junior Achievement and a board member of the Margaret Byrd Jones Foundation, Inc. She also serves on the FHARO's board of directors and as chairperson of the public relations committee. Watkins is a strong advocate for domestic violence awareness and prevention.

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.



Shannon Young
PRESIDENT ELECT



Debbie Johnson
IMMEDIATE
PAST PRESIDENT



Abe Singh
TREASURER



Kim Barclay
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jerome Ryans
MEMBER at LARGE



Gail Sansbury
MEMBER at LARGE



Catherine Reddick
MEMBER at LARGE



Phillip O. Goombs
MEMBER at LARGE



Pamela Davis
MEMBER at LARGE



Becky Sue Mercer
MEMBER at LARGE



Lisa Jones Watkins
MEMBER at LARGE



Kristopher Cruzada
COMMISSIONER at LARGE



Reta Thomas
PRESIDENT

Reta Thomas serves as the director of resident services for the Augusta Housing Authority. Reta is a housing professional with 36 years of service. She is the 2019-2020 president for the Georgia Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (GAHRA) and is serving a third term as chairperson of SERC's public affairs/SERCulator committee. Reta, a former public housing resident, is an alumnus of Albany State University and Faith Bible Institute. She has one adult son and two adorable grandsons, Lathan and Dillon.

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 of experience in public housing, six of those being as the executive director. She is the senior vice-president for GAHRA. Debi currently serves on the scholarship committee for SERC. Debi is married to Dennis McDade and they have two grown children and three grandchildren.

Richard Whitworth is the director for the Lavonia Housing Authority. He will serve as interim vice president of member services. Rick served as president for GAHRA 2008-2009.

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.

Latonia Simmons serves as the vice-president of housing operations 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 co-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
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

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 in 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 vice president of Housing and Redevelopment.

Marie Harris is the executive director of the Roberta Housing Authority and has 27 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. She has also served as a member of the convention committee, U.S. government committee, and Georgia government committee. Marie represents GAHRA on the SERC professional development committee.

Candice Drake is the executive director for Dawson Housing Authority and has over 12 years of experience in public housing. She holds a bachelor's of arts in English and criminal justice from Alabama A & M University and a master's degree in public administration from Western Michigan University. She was a 2012 graduate of GAHRA's Future Leaders. Drake has served on GAHRA's executive committee in numerous positions and currently serves as SERC's co-chairperson of convention. She is the proud mother of one son.

Michael Boatwright is the executive director for the Moultrie Housing Authority, Doerun Housing Authority and the Moultrie Leased Housing Corporation located in Moultrie, Georgia and the Moultrie Leased Housing Corporation. With 18 years of experience in public housing, Michael serves as the past president of 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.



Richard Whitworth
V.P. MEMBER SERVICES



Mark Watson
V.P. LEGISLATION & REGULATION



Latonia Simmons
V.P. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Gary Erwin
V.P. HOUSING



Marie Harris
TREASURER



Candice Drake
SECRETARY



Michael Boatwright
PAST PRESIDENT

KHA | OFFICERS



Steven Parker
PRESIDENT

Steven Parker is the executive director for the Housing Authority of Dawson Springs, and has 13 years of experience in public housing. He currently serves as president of the Kentucky Housing Association (KHA), and on the professional development committee and the state representative committee for SERC. He has also served as both vice president and vice president of public housing for KHA, on the board for the KHA Self-Insured Fund, and has served on various SERC committees, including SERCcess, emerging leaders, and 40 under 40. He was commissioned as a Kentucky colonel in 2010 by the governor of KY. Steven is married with 2 children and holds a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University in financial management/planning.

Jeffrey Patrick has been the executive director of the Housing Authority of Morehead for 15 years. He has served on the KHA board as the VP of housing and currently serves as the vice president of KHA and on the KHA Self-Insured Fund board. He has served on several SERC committees, including small agency task force, education & training, housing, and 40 under 40. He received his associates degree and his BA from Morehead State University. Prior to working in public housing, he worked for General Dynamics Land Systems Division (defense contractor) for seven years in Lima, OH and three years in Cairo, Egypt building army tanks as a welding engineer, certified welding instructor and welding production manager. Returning to the states in 1994, he bought and operated a gasoline and diesel fuel distributorship in Morehead, where they served farmers, construction companies, and rural "mom & pop" grocery stores.



Jeffrey Patrick
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Ruth Tanner is the executive director for the Boone County Assisted Housing Department in Burlington. She has 25 years of experience in affordable housing, serving the last seven years as the director. Ruth is currently the secretary for KHA and has served 2 terms as vice president of Section 8 for the association. She also currently serves on the rental assistance committee for SERC. Ruth is married with 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren.

Cheri James is the executive director of the Catlettsburg Housing Authority. She has over 20 years of experience in local government with seven years in public housing. She currently serves as the treasurer for the Kentucky Housing Association and is a member of the SERC education & training committee. She received her bachelor's degree in finance from Morehead State University. She and her husband Trent have 2 sons.

Mike Turner is the executive director of the Housing Authority of Tompkinsville, as well as the managing director of the Burkesville Housing Authority. He currently serves on the KHA board of directors as vice president of public housing. He has worked in public housing for 14 years. Mike is married with six children, 13 grandchildren and one great grandchild. He has been a pastor for 18 years in Tompkinsville.

Tracey Wilks is the Section 8 manager at the Housing Authority of Lawrence County, where she has worked since February 2007. She is currently serving as the vice president of Section 8 for the Kentucky Housing Association. She is married to Neil and they have twin boys who are 17 years old.



Ruth Tanner
SECRETARY

Faith Day Pike is the maintenance director for the Housing Authority of Catlettsburg. She has 5 years of 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.

Faye Dodd is the executive director of the Housing Authority of Murray. She has over 20 years of experience in public housing. Murray's public housing program was the first to go smoke-free in the state of Kentucky in 2009. She currently serves as director-at-large for the Kentucky Housing Association, and has served in the past as District 1 director, secretary, vice-president of public housing and also serves on the Kentucky Housing Association Self-Insured Fund board of trustees. She is a Rutgers University certified EDEP, NAHRO certified SPHM, and received her bachelor's degree in social work from Murray State University. She has served on several SERC committees including 40 under 40, member services, and a resident and client services award jury.

Tim Kitts is the executive director of the Housing Authority of Danville, as well as the managing director of the Stanford Housing Authority. He currently serves on the KHA board as District 2 director. He has worked in public housing for eight years. He serves on the SERC CR&D and IRGE committees and was a SERC Emerging Leader graduate in 2019. Tim is married with three children and holds a bachelor's of science degree in business administration from Tennessee Temple University.



Cheri James
TREASURER

Cindy Bowen is the executive director of the Housing Authority of Lawrence County. She currently serves as District 3 director for the Kentucky Housing Association. She has over 28 years of experience in finance and three-and-a-half years in public housing. Cindy and her husband Randy have two sons.

Vickie Smiley is the executive director of the Housing Authority of Hopkinsville and currently serves as the state past president. She has been in housing for 20 years. In the past, she has served as District 1 director, vice president and president of the Kentucky Housing Association, and has served on several SERC and PHADA committees. She is married to Bruce, and has two grown children and three grandchildren.

Shauna Boom is the executive director of the Housing Authority of Owensboro. She has worked in public housing for over 20 years, and currently serves as District 1 director for KHA. She is past president of the Kentucky Housing Association and serves as the SERC VP of member services and on the administrative practices and budgeting committee. Shauna is married with three children and holds a bachelor's of science degree in administration of justice from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale.

Tooter Castle is the deputy executive director of the Housing Authority of Paintsville. She has over 25 years of experience in public housing. Ms. Castle is past president of the Kentucky Housing Association, has served as vice president of KHA and two terms as District 4 director. She has also served on several SERC and PHADA committees. She is currently serving as secretary of the KHA Self-Insured Fund and as a District 4 director for KHA. She is married to Bob and has one son and two grandchildren.



Mike Turner
V.P. HOUSING



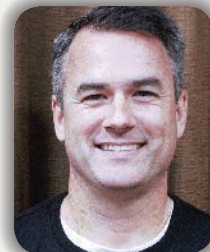
Tracey Wilks
V.P. SECTION 8



Faith Day Pike
V.P. MAINTENANCE



Faye Dodd
DIRECTOR



Tim Kitts
DIRECTOR



Cindy Bowen
DIRECTOR



Vickie Smiley
1st PAST PRESIDENT



Shauna Boom
2nd PAST PRESIDENT



Tooter Castle
3rd PAST PRESIDENT

MAHRO | OFFICERS

Mississippi



Ben Washington
PRESIDENT

Ben Washington is the executive director of the Vicksburg Housing Authority and its non-profit Vicksburg Housing Management and Development LLC. He also services as the executive director for the Yazoo City Housing Authority. Washington has over 15 years of experience in low-income housing and 22 years as an executive director. He is the current president for MAHRO and serves on several SERC committees. He has a bachelor of science in business administration from University of Southern Mississippi. He has been married to Elizabeth for over 27 years and they have three kids.

Jason Spencer is the executive director of Tennessee Valley Regional Housing Authority which serves over a ten-county area in northeast Mississippi. He has 18 years of service with TVRHA in a wide variety of roles. Spencer serves on the rental assistance/CR&D committee for MAHRO. He is also a PHADA trustee and serves on the housing committee for PHADA. He is currently serving on the rental assistance committee and the RAD committee for SERC-NAHRO. Spencer holds a BBA from Faulkner University and an MBA from Union University in Jackson, TN. He and his wife Jeannie have two sons.

Kaye Judson is retired from the West Point Housing Authority. Kaye has 32 years of experience in public housing and holds a bachelor's degree in science and accounting. She currently serves as secretary-treasurer of her state association. 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.

Felicia Jackson is the assistant executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Laurel and has 26 years of service there including numerous years as an administrative assistant. She is a co-chairperson of the South Mini Group and a member of the professional development and emerging leaders committees for MAHRO and SERC. Jackson is a graduate of Jackson State University where she received her bachelor's degree in business administration.



Jason Spencer
SR. VICE PRESIDENT

Sarah Lyons is the controller of the Biloxi Housing Authority where she has ten years of experience. She currently serves as the chairperson of MAHRO's member services committee and is a contributor to the MAHRO emerging leaders committee and MHARM advisory committee. She is Mississippi's member services representative for SERC. Lyons earned her masters of business administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Katrina 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.

Tillmon Calvert is the vice-chairperson of the board of commissioners for Mississippi's Tupelo Housing Authority. He has 12 years of experience in the housing industry. Tillmon has a bachelor's degree from Tougaloo College, an MBA from Bellarmine University, and a PhD from Jacksonville Theological Seminary.

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.

Brian Power is the executive director at Mississippi Regional Housing Authority IV in Columbus, MS, and has 33 years of 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.

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

Debra Taylor is a lifelong native of Starkville. She holds a bachelor of science degree from MUW in education and her master's degree in education from Mississippi State University. She serves as the executive director of the Columbus Housing Authority where she has been employed for the past 18 years. Taylor is a member of numerous civic organizations and serves on several advisory councils. She has been married to Terrance for 28 years, and they have three grown children and three grandchildren.

Thomas Coleman is special advisor to Tennessee Valley Regional Housing Authority has over 40 years of service. Thomas is a past president and has served on the board of directors of MAHRO. He served two terms as SERC's vice president of housing and is presently a member of SERC's legislative committee. He served on the NAHRO housing committee for several years and is presently a member of the PHADA housing committee. He has a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University. He and his wife Mary Kathryn have two sons and two grandchildren.

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.

Ailrick Young is the executive director of the city of Laurel, MS Housing Authority and has 24 years' experience. He is currently a member of the policy advisory committee in the Mississippi chapter, and has served as SERC past president as well as on the nominating and youth development committees. He also serves on the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Strategic Planning Advisory Group (SPAC). He holds a bachelor's degree from University of Southern Mississippi in criminal justice.

Royal Ann Spencer is the executive director of the Clarksdale Housing Authority where she has over 40 years of service. She serves on the policy advisory committee for MAHRO, and is currently serving on SERC's professional development 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. She attended the University of Southern Mississippi. Royal Ann and her husband Greg have three children and are the proud grandparents of Addison, who is 15 months old.

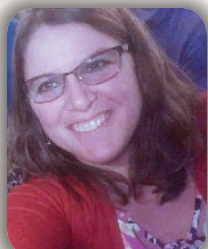
Terri Farmer-Holt is the executive director of Winona Housing Authority. Farmer-Holt has over 35 years in public service, with five of those years at Winona Housing Authority. She serves on the board of directors of MAHRO and on the advisory committee of MHARM insurance. She has served on MAHRO member services committee, and the small agency task force and the public affairs committees for SERC. She currently serves on MS Tobacco Free Coalition for Montgomery County and on Families First for MS Coalition for Montgomery County. Farmer-Holt has an associate's degree from Holmes Junior College. She has two children and one grandchild.



Kaye Judson
SECRETARY/TREASURER



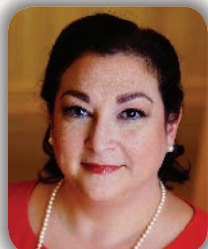
Felicia Jackson
VP Professional Dev



Sarah Lyons
VP MEMBERS SERVICES



Tillmon Calvert
VP OF COMMISSIONERS



Helen Werby
DIRECTOR



Brian Power
DIRECTOR



Tabitha Smith
DIRECTOR



Debra Taylor
DIRECTOR



Katrina Pace
VP of HOUSING



Thomas Coleman
POLICY ADVISORY



Judy Mellard
POLICY ADVISORY



Ailrick Young
POLICY ADVISORY



Royal Ann Spencer
POLICY ADVISORY



TERRI HOLT
DIRECTOR

TAHRA | OFFICERS

Tennessee



Paul Dellinger
PRESIDENT

Paul Dellinger Paul Dellinger has served as TAHRA president since 2017 and has been the executive director of the Cleveland Housing Authority since 2005. He 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 Aaron and Cody and two grandsons Gentry and Landy. Paul enjoys family, travel, guitar, and endurance mountain bike racing.

Maria Catron is the executive director of Oak Ridge Housing Authority. Ms. Catron has served in a variety of roles during her 15 years in the public housing/affordable housing industry. Her experience ranges from redevelopment with HOPE VI Community Supportive Services/Choice Neighborhoods to community programs and services with Family Self Sufficiency/Homeownership programs. Maria has served on several local, regional, and state boards focused on affordable housing. Currently, she is serving as treasurer for the Tennessee Affordable Housing Coalition and senior vice-president of TAHRA. Maria and her husband Darryl reside in Oak Ridge and have five sons and a daughter.

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.



Maria Catron
SR. VICE PRESIDENT

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.

Jeff Green is the operations director for Morristown Housing Authority (MHA). Jeff has worked with MHA since 1999. His duties for the housing authority include supervising daily maintenance operations, managing the capital fund program, and overseeing procurement. He is a graduate of Tusculum University with a bachelor's degree in organizational management with a concentration in financial management. He serves as co-chair of TAHRA's exhibitors committee and is a member of the SERC/NAHRO history and archives committee. Jeff is also a member of the East Tennessee Purchasing Association. He and his wife have three sons and two granddaughters.



Jo Alred
VICE PRESIDENT COMMISSIONERS

Justin Jones Justin Jones serves as the executive director of the Ripley Housing Authority. He holds bachelor degrees in both business management and accounting, as well as his MBA with a concentration in accounting. After several years in management and public accounting, Justin became the finance director at Ripley Housing Authority in 2015. He was promoted to the position of executive director in 2018. In addition to completing the Executive Director Education Program from PHADA and Rutgers University; Jones' professional certifications include public housing manager from NAHRO; certified professional of occupancy from NAHMA, enrolled agent from the IRS, and certified municipal financial officer from the state of Tennessee. In addition, he is currently pursuing his property manager certification from the Institute of Real Estate Management. Jones serves as TAHRA's vice-president of member services, a committee member on PHADA's membership committee, and a committee member on SERC-NAHRO's housing and emerging leaders committees. He is also active within his community serving as a Rotary Club member, Bags of Hope volunteer, and a member of the Lauderdale County litter committee. He has two children, Austin and Georgie, and is a lifelong resident of Lauderdale County, TN.

Susan Minor has been with the Franklin Housing Authority (FHA) since 2012. She is currently serving as the vice president-operations and is involved with development activities, human resources, community outreach, asset management, grant writing and "other duties as assigned". She has a broad range of professional experience including nonprofit management, marketing and communications and commercial real estate. She holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Arkansas State University and completed the PHADA/Rutgers Executive Director Education Program. She is involved with several community organizations. Susan and her husband, Gary, live in Franklin and have one son.

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.



Thomas Rowe
SECRETARY/TREASURER

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 serves on NAHRO's community revitalization and development committee. Joyce received her bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University.



Jeff Green
VICE PRESIDENT HOUSING



Justin Jones
VICE PRESIDENT MEMBER SERV.



Susan Minor
VICE PRESIDENT PROF. DEV.



Jim Payne
1st PAST PRESIDENT



Joyce Floyd
2nd PAST PRESIDENT

VAHCDO | OFFICERS

Virginia



Phillip Page
PRESIDENT

Phillip Page, Jr. is the vice president of program services 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

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.



Alisa Winston
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

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.

Tyrone Franklin is the executive director at the Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Franklin has 24 years of experience in local government and started his career with the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Carl Williamson is the director of housing operations at Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority. He currently serves on the board as vice president of housing for VAHCDO.

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 administrator. He is also the current vice-president for the Little Ten Housing Authorities of Southwest Virginia.

Justin D. Brooks assumed the role of executive director of the Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority in January. He holds a master's degree in public administration from Virginia Tech and has over 15 years of executive experience in the field of housing and community development, serving in both the public and private sectors. He serves on the VAHCDO board as vice president of program services.

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.

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.

Dr. Mike Hawkins serves as the managing director of community outreach for the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA). Mike was the community development director for the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority prior to joining VADA. He directed major neighborhood revitalization efforts in those two cities which included the development of homeownership and rental communities. Mike is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He holds a Ph.D. in public administration and urban policy from Old Dominion University.

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.



Gary Wasson
SECRETARY



Lance Allen
TREASURER



Tyrone Franklin
V.P. COMMUNICATIONS/
MEMBERSHIP



Carl Williamson
V.P. HOUSING



Keith Viers
V.P. PROFESSIONAL DEV



Justin D. Brooks
V.P. PROGRAM SERVICES



John Bohm
V.P. COMMUNITY DEV



Ed Ware
V.P. PUBLIC POLICY



Dr. Mike Hawkins
V.P. AT-LARGE



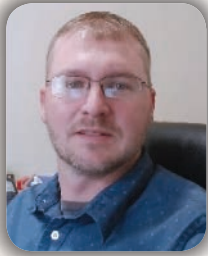
Lisa Porter
PAST PRESIDENT



Pauline Sturgill
PRESIDENT

Pauline Sturgill is the executive director of the Williamson Housing Authority. She was hired in 2012, with 40 plus years of professional experience in rural community capacity building and leadership development. Pauline holds a Master's Degree in Political Science 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, the National Service Leadership Institute and was a WVU Community Fellow. Pauline lives with her husband of 42 years in Mingo County, on her family's ridgetop farm, which dates back to the mid-1800's. In her spare time, Pauline oil paints, gardens and enjoys a good book.

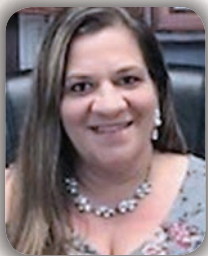
Harold Lanham serves as the assistant director and maintenance supervisor of the Dunbar Housing Authority. He was employed by the Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority prior to moving to Dunbar, where he worked for almost 10 years in the maintenance department. Harold lives on a farm he grew up on, in a log home he built. He has a public housing manager certification and is honored to have the opportunity to serve as vice president of the WVAHA.



Harold Lanham
VICE PRESIDENT

Belinda Harness is executive director of the Housing Authority of Mingo County. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from Marshall University in business accounting. Belinda has 26 years with the Housing Authority of Mingo County, serving in a variety of positions that prepared her well to serve as the executive director. She is a board member of Community Works of West Virginia and volunteers throughout the community. Belinda has lived in Delbarton her entire life where she raises her three daughters.

Tammy Miller is the deputy director/director of finance of the Wheeling Housing Authority. She has 13 years of public housing experience. Tammy currently serves on SERC's education and training and IRGE committees, as well as PHADA's legislative committee. Tammy 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 reside in Valley Grove, and have an adult son, a daughter in law and two grandchildren.



Belinda Harness
SECRETARY

Christal Crouso is the executive director of the Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority. Christal has been involved in the development of a multi-faceted home-ownership center that includes 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 also serves on the loan committee for Community Works in West Virginia. Christal lives in Fairmont with her husband Denny and her two sons.

Karen C. Jacobson is the executive director of the Randolph County Housing Authority, where she has worked since 2001. Karen also serves as part-time loan fund manager of Woodlands Community Lenders (WCL), a CDFI she co-founded which provides loans and technical assistance to small businesses in a three-county area. Karen serves as the board chairperson of Fahe, a regional membership group on a mission to eliminate persistent poverty in Appalachia. Karen earned her MBA from Boston University and graduated in 2013 from Achieving Excellence, an executive education program of the JFK School of Government at Harvard University.

Donna Whitt is the executive director of the Beckley Housing Authority where she has 35 years of experience. Donna has a business administration degree and serves on the WVAHA scholarship and public affairs committees and the SERC-NAHRO rental assistance and resolutions committees. She lives with her husband Mark of 30 years in Shady Spring with a wide variety of critters.

LuAnne H. Bush is the vice chairman of the Clarksburg-Harrison Regional Housing Authority and serves as the chairperson of the WVAHA commissioners committee. Lu is a vice president with Wes Banco Bank, Inc working in commercial lending and as a regional chairperson for the bank's community development department.

Jeff Knight is the chief operations officer of the Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority and has 20 plus years of experience in public housing. Jeff serves on SERC's asset repositioning and administrative practices committees. Jeff received his bachelor's degree from the University of Charleston and his master's degree from Ohio State University.



Tammy Miller
TREASURER



Christal Crouso
BOARD MEMBER



Karen Jacobson
BOARD MEMBER



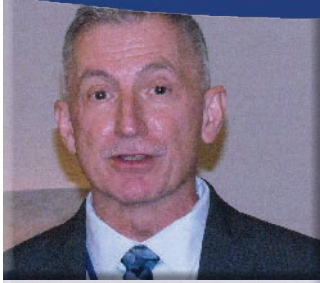
Donna Whitt
BOARD MEMBER



LuAnne Bush
V.P. COMMISSIONERS



Jeff Knight
PAST PRESIDENT



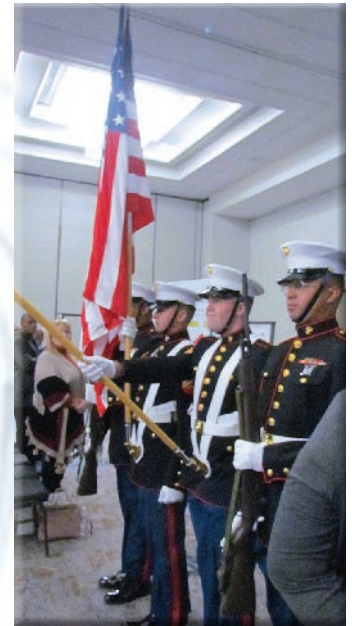
*H*ave you ever really thought about the old adage that 'the more things change, the more they remain the same?' It means that change is a constant, natural part of life. Therefore, the constant change of things is part of them "staying the same". Once you realize this, you actually stop seeing each small change as something exceptional, or perhaps threatening.



SERC-NAHRO members came together once again for the fall workshop, but this time under the leadership of our new president Mark Taylor. The workshop held November 1-5, at the Marriot Hilton Head Resort & Spa, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.



Former NAHRO President Don Cameron gave our invocation. The presentation of colors was powerfully executed by Battery Creek High School's ROTC Guard with Charlie



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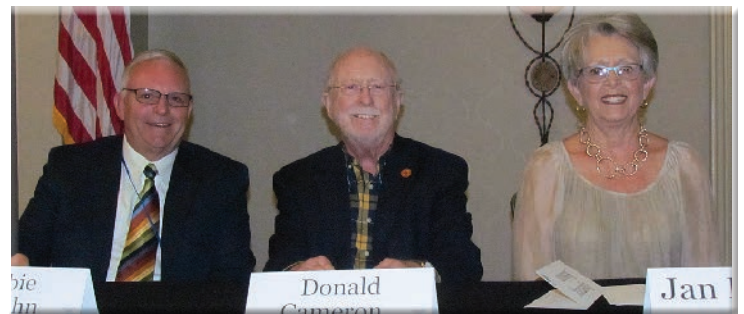
Opening Session

Harrington leading the Pledge of Allegiance. President Mark Taylor, with committee chairpersons in place, began developing strategies to move SERC forward. The new term started with many changes that promise to improve communication and move us into the new decade. Budgets for education and training, site selections, conferences and workshops must be considered when planning for the two years ahead.

President Elect Robbie Littlejohn with the Carolina Council welcomed members to Hilton Head Island for the workshop. Littlejohn is the executive director of the Union Housing Authority Union, SC. NAHRO was represented by Georgi Banna, director of policy and program development.

We were honored and delightfully entertained to have Dr. Earl Suttle as our keynote speaker. Dr. Suttle is the founder and chairman of Leadership Success International, LLC, an international training and consulting company based in Atlanta. They specialize in working with businesses and organizations to increase their profits and productivity through developing their people. His energy and enthusiastic personality engaged the group as he emphasized using

Continued on next page





time wisely and walking with a sense of purpose.

The next days were filled with an array of informative sessions for commissioners covering topics including RAD, CR&D and maintenance. A small agency forum allowed participants to discuss the repositioning of their agencies and the decisions they must make to help them cover.

Continued on next page



The SERC group and their families were treated to a wonderful reception with a variety of food stations that surely satisfied all members' tastes and preferences. Be sure to make plans for the 2020 SERC-NAHRO Annual Conference in Boca Raton, Florida, June 21-24. Visit www.serc-nahro.org for training session offerings and hotel information as we focus on navigating the "Waves of Change and Oceans of Opportunity". ~~~~~





Legislative / Business Meeting

SERC | FALL WORKSHOP

The final morning of the conference, our legislative update was presented by Tim Kaiser, executive director Public Housing Authority Directors Association in Washington, D.C.

SERC-NAHRO also acknowledged the retirement of Buddy Oldfield. A key member of SERC, Buddy has served as chairperson of the professional development committee under several SERC presidents. We wish him the best in his retirement, and we will certainly miss Buddy.



Boca Raton

*Waves of Change
Oceans of Opportunities*

2020 SERC-NAHRO Annual Conference
June 21-24, 2020
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Crime doesn't pay



Mike Sweet

In July, Senator Kamala Harris and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced legislation in the House and Senate called the Fair Chance at Housing Act. This bill was offered as part of larger criminal justice reform efforts that will negate many of the tough-on-crime policies from the 1990s; it follows in the footsteps of similar legislation

introduced by Representative Maxine Waters in 2016. Some of the highlights of this proposed legislation are as follows:

- Specifically defines and limits what criminal information can be considered in making screening and eviction decisions and adds burdensome reporting requirements
- Dictates policies and procedures that must be adopted by housing authorities
- Includes requirements related to notification and opportunities for appeal that are already required by regulations
- Severely limits actions that can be taken when considering juvenile criminal activity
- Requires a review panel that includes current resident participation, which may create risks for maintaining confidentiality required by law
- Prohibits housing authorities from screening voucher holders porting into their jurisdiction

- Creates inconsistencies with criminal codes and landlord-tenant laws that are defined at the state level

I think that we would all agree that persons who have served their debt to society deserve a second chance in life. However, this bill takes a "one size fits all" approach, creates an unfunded mandate, and will likely be unworkable. Furthermore, the bill eliminates local controls that have been in place for decades and have been successfully used to quickly address worst-case crime problems threatening the community. Eliminating or severely restricting the use of these tools will negatively impact housing authorities' ability to ensure safe communities.

While I appreciate the intent of this legislation, I believe that policies developed locally to address the needs of the community will likely have better success. Policies on eligibility need to be aligned with local re-entry procedures and programs in order to have the desired effect. Current HUD guidance already reflects best practices: have a well-defined policy with few definite disqualifying criteria, consider mitigating circumstances, review applicants/participants on a case-by-case basis, and establish a clear appeal process. It seems unnecessary to me to address this issue any further.

As I previously indicated, this is the second time that such legislation has been introduced and it is likely not the last. I encourage you to follow this discussion closely and offer your input when you have the opportunity. As always, please send me your thoughts and feedback a chick604@bellsouth.net

**2020 NAHRO
Washington Conference**

March 29-31

Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel
Washington, DC

NAHRO
building communities together

NAHRO NAVIGATES

Local Solutions **HUD**
Congress
Funding Advocacy
National Elections



Mike Lundy, executive director Housing Authority of Birmingham District, Tydeesha Harris (first FYI recipient), DHR Commissioner Nancy Buckner and HUD SE Region Administrator Denise Cleveland-Leggett.



Alabama Housing Authorities signing the MOU are: Opp, Ozark, Tuskegee, Cullman, Enterprise, Alexander City, Huntsville, Phenix City, Northport, Florence, Birmingham.



HUD SE Region Administrator Denise Cleveland-Leggett.

HUD and Alabama kick-off foster youth to independence initiative

HUD Southeast Region Administrator Denise Cleveland-Leggett recently joined the state of Alabama Department of Human Resources Commissioner Nancy T. Buckner and public housing authority executive directors as they signed memorandums of agreement kicking off HUD's Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative that targets housing assistance and supportive services for youth aging out of foster care who are at-risk-of or experiencing homelessness.

"With those wrap-around services, it not only gives them a place to live, but it teaches them and gives them tools to be able to sustain themselves as they go forward," said Denise Cleveland-Leggett, the regional administrator of HUD.

"We just see it as an incredible opportunity to take those young people who are out of care who are struggling with stable housing and help them out and to give them some stability in where they're going to live," said Bill Benson with DHR.

During the program Tydeesha Harris was also recognized for being the first Foster Youth to Independence recipient in the state as well. There are currently 6,350 youth in foster care in Alabama with nearly 500 youth between the ages of 18 and 20 and approximately 140 youth between those ages leaving foster care each year.

Executive directors from 10 housing authorities signed the initiative to be a participant in the initiative and were enthusiastic that other housing authorities in the state will also participate in the program.

In January, HUD Secretary Ben Carson awarded nearly \$500,000 to the FYI Initiative and in February an additional \$258,606 in funding for HUD's new Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative was awarded.

FYI is an important new strategy aimed at helping communities reach the federal goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness outlined in Home Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. FYI and the partnership of local PHAs, PCWAs, and Continuums of Care (CoC), will assist communities in ensuring that every young person who has had experience with the child welfare system has access to safe, affordable housing where they are supported to reach self-sufficiency by working toward their education and employment goals. More information on FYI is available on the Tenant Protection Vouchers for FYI Initiative page.

Auburn hosts luncheon for residents and staff

The **Auburn** Housing Authority hosted a Christmas luncheon for its senior residents in December 2019. Residents and staff enjoyed delicious food and great fellowship!



Unique partnership provides parenting seminar for youth

The **Burlington** Housing Authority partnered with local Elon University students to facilitate a discussion about parenthood during our afterschool programs—Dream Girls /Training for Manhood (ages 13-18). Although we have partnered with Elon University in the past, this partnership is special because of the Elon students' role in the discussions. Rather than facilitating, Elon students had one-on-one interactions with students from both the Dream Girls and Training for Manhood programs to explore their experiences of growing up in their households. From this interaction, the students enrolled in "Fatherhood", a 300-level course at the university, and the Dream Girls/Training for Manhood students hoped to establish a mutual understanding of what it means to be a parent and how to interact with their own parents. The two-week, three-session course focused on parent-child relationships as well as how those roles may change in the future when the students become parents. After three successful sessions, we believe that all students involved in the parenthood workshop walk away with a new understanding of parenting and a new perspective on parent-child relationships that can be used in their own homes. Thank you to the nearly 30 students for their transparency while facilitating sessions.



Every child deserves happiness at Christmas

The **Greenville** Housing Authority (GHA) was recently recognized for 23 years of volunteer service to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation. GHA serves as a distribution center for Toys for Tots and serves families throughout Pitt County. Wayman A. Williams, executive director/CEO of GHA said "This event is a legacy for us and an opportunity to give back to our community."

GHA Deputy Executive Director Michael Best remembers when they first became a distribution site for Toys for Tots in 1996. Mr. Best stated "back then, we would rent a truck and drive to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock to pick up the toys and bring them back to Greenville for distribution." At that time, GHA was the only agency in Greenville involved in the Toys for Tots program. Rev. Rodney Coles, who serves as the Toys for Tots coordinator for 14 Eastern N.C. counties, stated that GHA is unique in that the agency accepts applications from all needy families, not just from public housing residents.

Honored during the event was Ms. Tiesha Long, GHA program coordinator, who was recognized for her efforts by the Toys for Tots Foundation. Ms. Long's association with Toys for Tots actually started when she was in middle school and volunteered at the distribution event in her hometown of Edenton. She has served as GHA's Toys for Tots coordinator since 2016. This year, requests for assistance were received from 258 families from October through December. Six-hundred-nine children received two gifts each from the Toys for Tots campaign. Some children received bicycles collected by the Greenville

GHA celebrates 30-year partnership with the PNRC

Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) and the Greensboro Police Department joined together on November 21, celebrating 30-years of the Police Neighborhood Resource Center (PNRC) program.

This award winning program began in 1989 as an effort to combat crime in Greensboro's four largest public housing communities. Due to the success of the program, the PNRC program now includes offices at six GHA locations throughout Greensboro—Smith Homes, Ray Warren Homes, Claremont Courts, Hampton Homes, Hickory Trails and Gateway Plaza.

PNRC resident managers staff the PNRC offices in the designated communities and accept calls from concerned residents about crime in their communities. Calls are reported to the officers and referrals to local social service agencies are made for specific residents' needs.

The program recognized the efforts of the current PNRC officers and resident managers. Officers from throughout the PNRC's history attended and were recognized for their service to GHA, the individual communities and Greensboro.

Through bike and foot patrols, along with the involvement of residents and service agencies throughout Greensboro, GHA and GPD continue to work cooperatively in implementing crime reduction strategies for all GHA communities.



SERC scholarship winner

Misty Russell from **South Carolina** is the recipient of a SERC scholarship for 2019-2020. Misty is a resident of the Sumter Housing Authority and attends Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter, South Carolina. She is sophomore majoring in Human Services. She chose this major because she wants to be the person that she needed as a child when she found herself surrounded by what she describes as darkness and chaos. Misty is the first person in her immediate family to attend college. Misty's children have been her greatest influence in her life. Misty enjoys making things and doing arts/crafts in her spare time. Misty plans to give back to her community by providing addiction services to those in need.



Police Department and the Pitt County Sheriff's Department through their "Bikes on the Roof" campaign.

Sergeant Jonathan Bartlett and Staff Sergeant Andrew Fremont of the Marine Corps Reserve, along with Rev. Coles, were on hand to present the awards and to help families pick out the perfect toys for their children. Coles has served as the Toys for Tots regional coordinator for the past six years. Also, on hand for the event were Congressman Greg Murphy and Mayor P.J. Connelly.

The Greenville Housing Authority wholeheartedly supports the Toys for Tots motto 'Every child deserves a little happiness at Christmas.'



Pictured left to right are Greenville Mayor P.J. Connelly; Rev. Rodney Coles, Sr.; Sgt. Jonathan Bartlett, Toys for Tots regional coordinator, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve; Tiesha Long, GHA program coordinator; Wayman A. Williams, GHA Executive Director/CEO; Staff Sgt. Andrew Fremont, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve; and Congressman Greg Murphy.



Police officers give free books to kids in low-income areas

From the Herald Tribune - July 2019

The **Sarasota** Housing Authority partnered with the Sarasota Police Department for their annual Books and Badges literacy event.

In honor of national summer learning week, Sarasota Police Department officers handed out hundreds of books to children in low-income housing communities in north Sarasota.

"We're making sure all kids get some books, so they can maintain their reading over the summer, so they can be reading on grade level for the first day of school," said Sgt. Eric Bolden of the Sarasota Police Department.

The event's goal was not only to mitigate summer learning loss, but also have the kids, ages six through twelve, experience a positive interaction with police officers. "This is a perfect event to build on two key initiatives to help our children succeed in school and life — fostering positive relationships between police and our families, and early childhood education," said William Russell, CEO, Sarasota Housing Authority.

Books and Badges was supported by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Education Foundation of Sarasota County and Sarasota County Libraries, and the books were provided by Algonquin Books for Young Readers, Workman Publishing, Candlewick Press, Hachette Book Group, HarperCollins Publishers, Macmillan Publishers, Penguin Random House, Scholastic and Simon & Schuster.

SCHA Awarded Grant from HUD

Seminole County Housing Authority (SCHA) was recently awarded a \$227,322 grant to fund 30 Mainstream Vouchers to assist adults between the ages of 18 and 62 with disabilities.

Aside from assisting a special population, Mainstream vouchers follow the same program policies as the regular tenant-based voucher program.

This program helps to further the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act by helping persons with disabilities live in the most integrated setting. The program also encourages partnerships with health and human service agencies with a demonstrated capacity to coordinate voluntary services and supports to enable individuals to live independently in the community.

Tampa Housing Authority receives the largest FFS (Family Self-Sufficiency) grant in the state of Florida

While the agency has consistently received Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Funding for more than 20 years, the mandatory baseline of families that are required to be served is 78; however, the **Tampa** Housing Authority currently provides service for over 356 families. This award of \$486,017.00 will allow us to increase our goal to serve as many as 450 families.

Tampa, FL (January 8, 2020) A recent notification from the Washington, D. C. Office of Housing and Urban Development announced a total \$80 Million in FSS (Family Self-Sufficiency) funding across the country. This funding enables public housing agencies to collaborate with social service agencies, community colleges, businesses and other partners to help FSS participants further their education, gain marketable skills and otherwise increase their income potential through

new employment or by advancing in their current workplace. Local housing authorities will be able to hire Service Coordinators who work directly with residents to connect them with existing community/agency programs and services in their local communities. These service coordinators build relationships with networks of local service providers who provide direct assistance to the FSS participants.

President/CEO Jerome D. Ryans said, "the FSS program is a God-send and allows us to prepare residents and their families for bright futures. I am so pleased each time an FSS graduate decides to use their escrow to realize the American dream of homeownership. Our Assisted Housing team is the best in the State! We are proud that their hard work has resulted in this large FSS award that will benefit additional families".

Here is how the program works: the participant signs a 5-year contract requiring the head of household to obtain employment. No member of the FSS family may have received cash welfare assistance for 12 months prior to program graduation. Families in the program have an interest-bearing escrow account established for them. The amount credited to the family's escrow account is based on increases in the families earned income during the term of the FSS contract. Successful participants receive the escrow funds that enable them to apply those funds to advance their personal circumstances, paying education expenses or making a down-payment on a home. Families that graduate the FSS program can participate in the homeownership program that currently has 65 participants.

GAHRA-legislative day

The **Georgia** Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (GAHRA) held their annual legislative day at the Georgia state capitol on Tuesday, January 28. More than 30 members participated and listened to very informative briefings from our legislators and state officials. Attendees then made visits to their legislators to address concerns that affect our local housing agencies. Attending GAHRA members were excited to have a photo taken with Governor Brian Kemp!



Camilla Housing Authority provides sewing classes and unity garden

Recently, the **Camilla** Housing Authority held its first sewing class where the residents were taught how to make a tote bag.

"I think the sewing class was very educational. I'm 61 and I had a sewing class when I was in high school so it brought it all back," said Jennifer Richardson, resident of Willowhead.

She added that this was the housing authority's first time doing a class in the seven years she's lived there, but she would love for them to continue having events such as the sewing class.

Richardson said the class was very educational as it teaches young women in the community responsibility as well as a valuable skill.

"Most of the ladies over here are single mothers, so sometimes they don't have the money to buy clothes and things, you can always get material cheaper and make things like clothes and curtains," Richardson continued.

In addition to being able to make clothes, Jessica Weston, resident of Adams Homes, said it's a skill she can teach her daughter especially since skills such as sewing aren't taught in schools like they used to be.

"Stuff that I got the chance to experience, my daughter won't get to experience because they took it out of schools, so if we don't teach them at home, they won't know anything about it," she said.

Elwanda Brown, resident of Jester Homes, said a class like this one will give young girls something positive to do in their spare time.



The unity garden

Louise Brown is a resident of **Camilla** Housing Authority, which has created a unity garden for the residents.

Mrs. Brown said, "It brings a great deal, both to the community and to me."

She added that anyone in community who wants some of the food grown in the garden is welcome to it, however there is not enough to go around."

Mrs. Brown has reached out to people for help when it comes to buying what the garden needs, but more help can mean more produce. She enjoys working in the garden along with her grandson Leroy. Brown said many people don't know how to help, but if they come and watch what she does they can learn.

Mrs. Brown added that she feels as if the housing authority is moving in a positive direction with all they bring to the communities



Augusta-Census 2020

The city of Augusta, GA recently held its 2020 Census Kick-off. This launch provided the citizens of Augusta, including resident leaders from the Augusta Housing Authority, an opportunity to learn important information regarding the U.S. Census 2020. The Census, held every ten years, is important because it affects health and social services, Section 8 and housing vouchers and infrastructure and grants.

The Honorable Mayor, Hardie Davis, Jr. is pictured below with several of our resident leaders. He stressed that census funding is important because it funds programs that benefit families and education and it improves the quality of life for our citizens.

In addition to being the first to see the 30 second advertising for our community, attendees were able to pick up Census 2020 swag, enjoy delicious refreshments, and interact with representatives of a few of the



various cultures that make up our beautiful city. Residents were charged to take the message back to their respective communities: Everyone Counts – Count Me in Augusta 2020!



KHA: Academic success!

Destiny Manns is a resident of the **Salyserville-Magoffin County** Joint Housing Authority. She graduated from Magoffin County High School in 2016 with a cumulative GPA of 4.0 and has continued her academic success throughout her college career at the University of Pikeville where she has made the Dean's List every semester.

Destiny credits her mother for helping to nurture her academic success by teaching her values and a good work ethic. This spring she will become the first person in her family to graduate from college.

The principal of Magoffin County High School stated, "I am immensely impressed with Destiny's resolve to rise above her current circumstances and the adversity she has obviously experienced. She recognizes education as the key to her success and is striving to make her dream of becoming a dentist a reality."

Destiny will graduate with honors on May 2, from the University of Pikeville. After graduation she will take her Dental Admissions Test (DAT) and apply for summer internships and enter dentistry school. At the completion of her education and training, Destiny plans to return to her community of Salyserville, Kentucky and practice dentistry.

Flooding—be prepared!

Floods are unpredictable and destructive, and they can happen in regions that have never seen rain.

They can cause death and injuries, isolate communities, damage major infrastructure, cut essential services, destroy property and livelihoods.

- Check with your local council about local flood plans or records which detail problem areas
- Ask authorities about relocation routes and centres. If your area is flood prone consider alternatives to carpets
- Prepare an emergency kit
- Prepare a household flood plan
- Keep a list of emergency telephone numbers on display
- Check your insurance policy to see if you are covered for flood damage?

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.

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Columbus Housing Authority and local partner present housing fair

To promote Housing America and raise awareness of the need for and the importance of safe, top-quality, affordable housing, **Columbus** Housing Authority partnered with Cadence Bank to host its annual housing fair. The event promoted homeownership, financial literacy, home financing and housing service opportunities available in the local community. Cadence Bank, the official premier sponsor, presided over the one-day event held at the Trotter Convention Center.

Participants were primarily citizens from the city of Columbus and Lowndes County. Exhibitors & vendors were asked to take a part by

setting up display tables showcasing their business services and providing door prizes to be given away during the event. Cadence Bank representatives conducted educational sessions with interested participants.

Along with various local banks and realtors, Columbus Housing Authority, Mississippi Regional Housing Authority IV, Mississippi Home Corp, Rural Development, Mississippi United to End Homelessness, Families Resource Center of North Mississippi, BH Properties, and Last House on the Block/Avante House had exhibits showcasing the housing services they offer to the public.



LHA discusses resident participation goals

On February 6, at their Townley Community Building, the **Laurel** Housing Authority (LHA) conducted a Contractor Participation Seminar for upcoming planned projects totaling over \$25 million. The seminar was in a panel format with representatives from the housing authority; Johnny Taylor, LHA's capital improvements coordinator; Cliff Bates, developer with Park Companies; Kevin Klar, general contractor with Unicorp; Project Manager Jason Mitchell; Ashley Lowe, HUD office of fair housing and equal opportunity; Ziva James, HUD office of field policy and management and Harold Russell, city of Laurel Inspection Department. After a brief welcome from the city of Laurel's Mayor Johnny Magee, the seminar kicked off. LHA Executive Director Ailrick Young stated, "This is an opportunity for an economic boost to our local economy, for local contractors to provide training, employment, contracting and other economic opportunities to the residents we serve". The panel members addressed each of their areas of responsibility, and after their individual comments, there was a question and answer period. At the closing of seminar, participants exchanged contact information. The audience included local and regional contractors and well as LHA residents and resident leaders. Most of those in attendance commented how

much they appreciated the information they gained from the seminar including LHA efforts to ensure their residents benefited in the way of employment and training from their upcoming projects.



Starkville teams up with local fire department

Starkville Housing Authority partnered with the Starkville Fire Department to purchase and install carbon monoxide detectors in all units. HUD notice PIH 2019-06 strongly encourages all public housing authorities to have carbon monoxide detectors installed in all units and buildings. Each year, more than 400 deaths occur from carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide death rates are highest for men, non-Hispanic blacks, and the elderly. Educational pamphlets containing information about carbon monoxide were distributed to all residents.



Veterans Day at Corinth

The residents of Tinin Terrace honored their veterans with soup, sandwiches, dessert and drinks on Tuesday, November 13. Each veteran who attended was given an appreciation medal and a hand held American flag. Mrs. Shilah Henry sang patriotic songs during and after the ceremony, Kare-In Home Health Services played BINGO with our veterans and provided prizes.

The Tinin Terrace senior citizen apartment complex houses ten veterans with seven attending the ceremony.

Dianne Timbes, executive director of the Corinth Housing Authority stated, "There are no words to express how deeply I respect these veterans and appreciate their service. Saying "thank you" feels insufficient when they have sacrificed so much and put their lives on the line for our country. Every day

is a good day to let these brave men and women know you appreciate them. I am very honored to honor them today with this event."





A “frozen” treat for kids

Forty-four children from the **McMinnville** Housing Authority activity centers were treated to a showing of “Frozen 2” during the second annual Movie with the Sheriff event. Sheriff Tommy Myers started this outreach effort last year. He said everyone enjoyed the event so much that they decided to repeat it annually. Chief Deputy Bo Ramsey said, “The interaction with the officers spreads a positive light and builds a stronger connection between the kids in the community and the police force.” Sheriff Myers went on to say, “These kids mean to world to all of us. The youth are our future, and I feel like this event helps us reach out and connect with the kids at an early age, hopefully preventing distrust issues as they grow through their teens.” The sheriff’s department employees purchased tickets, bags of popcorn, candy canes and bottles of water for the children, and an absolutely wonderful time was had by all!

KCDC shares updates to Austin Homes master plan at Jan. 27 open house

Knoxville’s Community Development Corporation (KCDC) shared updates to the master plan and first phases of development at the Austin Homes site at an open house Monday, Jan. 27, at Green Magnet Academy. KCDC anticipates breaking ground later this year.

The Austin Homes master plan is based on months of dialogue with residents, stakeholders and community members. Topics discussed have included options for overall site usage, street layouts, residential building types and use of open spaces, along with research and analyses regarding Knoxville’s housing and retail markets.

“Austin Homes, due to its close proximity to downtown Knoxville, is a unique opportunity for community and residential revitalization,” KCDC Executive Director and CEO Ben Bentley said. “The feedback from Austin Homes’ residents and stakeholders and other community members has been invaluable throughout the master planning process.”

Established in 1941, Austin Homes is a nearly 23-acre site located just east of downtown. KCDC will replace the site’s existing affordable housing units and add a mix of housing choices for families and individuals of varied income levels and other appropriate non-residential uses to create a vibrant urban community.

The affordable housing units are estimated to include:

- 129 subsidized units replacing the units on-site at the time of redevelopment
- 71 or more Low Income Housing Tax Credit units, available to families earning 50% of area median income (AMI)
- 110 units available to families earning up to 80% of AMI
- 110 units available to families earning up to 100% of AMI

Austin Homes’ residents have been provided relocation choices at other KCDC properties, including the revitalized Five Points community and the recently renovated The Vista at Summit Hill, which are both in the same school district. These residents will have the right to return to the Austin Homes site when the first phases of revitalization are complete.

Construction will be funded primarily through low-income housing tax credits valued at \$13 million from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency.

In December, Knoxville City Council approved \$4.25 million in funding for infrastructure improvements supporting the master plan.



Knoxville Realtor Kanika White appointed to KCDC board

Realtor Kanika White has been appointed by Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon to the board of commissioners for **Knoxville’s** Community Development Corporation (KCDC).

White, who has 15 years of experience in real estate and property management, will fill the unexpired term of the late Gloria Garner, who died Dec. 10, 2019. Garner, 82, a longtime community organizer and retiree of the Knoxville Area Urban League, joined KCDC’s board in 2016 to fill a vacancy and was appointed to a five-year term in 2017.

White will serve on the board until June 30, 2022, at which time she will be eligible for appointment to a full five-year term. A native of New Orleans, White is a member of the Knoxville Area Association of Realtors; Tennessee Association of Realtors; and National Association of Realtors. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, she relocated to Atlanta and worked for Mercy Housing Management Group, which specializes in affordable housing, then was promoted to senior property manager at the company’s branch in Knoxville. White currently is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker.



Kanika White is the newest board member for Knoxville’s Community Development Corporation.

Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority chosen as a destination for Envision Center

On November 4, Joe DeFelice, regional administrator for HUD's Mid-Atlantic region, announced an Envision Center for the **Newport News** Redevelopment and Housing Authority. The Lift & Connect Resource Center is in the Ridley neighborhood of Newport News and will help low-income residents increase their income and gain self-sufficiency. EnVision Centers are located in or near public housing developments and provide communities with a centralized hub to access support in the following four pillars: economic empowerment, educational advancement, health and wellness, and character and leadership. DeFelice stated, "We will not measure success by the number of people who enter these new EnVision Centers. Success will be measured by the number of individuals who achieve greater self-sufficiency-who no longer require assistance from our programs- who gain the financial independence to be able to rent, or even buy, their own house."

Each resident from the community is assigned a case worker to support and connect them to resources. NNRHA is partnering with the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) to identify housing, employment, education, childcare, health, training and other supportive service needs of all household members. The NNRHA Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program helps residents create specific individual and family development plans and set goals for success.

Ms. Wilds, executive director of the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority stated, "We have been working with our residents to provide services for many years at our Family Investment Center. This designation, along with the holistic approach of our partner agency the Hampton Roads Community Action Program, takes this effort to the next level. We are thankful to be one of such a select few to have the Envision Center designation."

Newport News executive director receives lifetime achievement award

In the fall of 2019, the Hampton Roads Housing Consortium (HRHC) awarded its highest honor, the HRHC Lifetime Achievement Award to Karen R. Wilds, executive director for the **Newport News** Redevelopment and Housing Authority, during a ceremony at the association's 13th annual conference at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

The board of directors of the HRHC awards the Lifetime Achievement Award when an individual has had a successful career and has made a significant contribution to the improvement of housing conditions in the region. Ms. Wilds has distinguished herself in both of these categories.

Ms. Wilds career began as the grants administrator and later the director of program development for the Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority before moving to the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) as the director of community development. In 1999, Ms. Wilds was appointed the executive director for the Newport News Authority where her compassion and commitment to the community epitomize the mission and purpose of the HRHC. The NNRHA, the primary developer of affordable housing on the Virginia Pen-

insula, manages all public housing and housing vouchers in Newport News and administers the Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs for the City of Newport News.

Ms. Wilds is still making a difference in her community. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded a \$30 million Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant to NNRHA, one of only three awarded nationwide in 2019.

Ms. Wilds has been a longtime supporter of HRHC. She is currently the president of the board of the Virginia Community Development Corporation and on the board of Viridian and the Newport News YMCA. She is an active member of the Newport News Rotary club. Previously, she served on the Governor's Housing Policy Workgroup, as the president of the Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials, and the Hampton Roads Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration.



MEDIA RELEASE—Dec. 10, 2019

BRHA awarded more than \$130,000 to assist disabled residents

BRISTOL, Va. — The **Bristol** Redevelopment and Housing Authority (BRHA) has been awarded \$131,000 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help support an estimated 30 non-elderly, disabled individuals and their families seeking affordable housing in Bristol, Virginia.

The funds, provided through HUD's Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher Program, are part of an overall \$131.3 million recently awarded by HUD to 325 local public housing authorities across the country.

"This program is designed to help residents with disabilities gain increasing independence and live in an integrated setting," says Lisa Porter, BRHA's Executive Director and CEO. "This year was the first time BRHA applied for funds under this program, and we're delighted to be able to provide increased assistance to individuals and families as they seek quality housing that supports their needs."

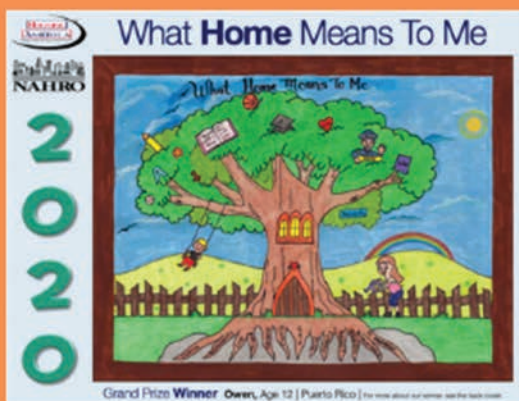
Under the program, approved residents can search for rental housing in the private market and receive assistance for monthly rent costs. Evaluation for the available vouchers will begin with BRHA's existing wait list and candidates from the organization's partner agencies, including Highlands Community Services and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. Leasing through the program is expected to begin in July 2020.

"The period for this grant is one year, and depending on our success with the program, hopefully it will be renewed in 2020," Porter says. "We are always searching for new ways and resources to help meet the housing needs of residents in Bristol, and these dedicated funds will allow us to support disabled residents, while also freeing up resources for other key groups that we serve, including the elderly."

West Virginia • News

WVAHA hosts leadership retreats

The West Virginia Association of Housing Authorities hosted a series of facilitative leadership retreats over the winter for committee members and chairpersons. The workshops were well received and set the stage for further professional development and growth among association members. Chairpersons had the opportunity to develop their skills in conflict resolution, moving agendas forward, leading for change and building effective teams. At the conclusion of the final retreat, each committee presented a strategic plan that will guide their work through the coming three years.



The 2020 Housing America Calendar is here! 

ORDER TODAY

2021 What Home Means to Me Calendar Contest Has Begun

Housing America's 2021 What Home Means to Me poster contest has officially launched! State and local chapters are encouraged to start their contests now! Check the website for upcoming forms and information.

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SERC EVENTS | Around the region

What's on the agenda around SERC

MARCH 2020

NAHRO Legislative Conference
 March 29-31
 Grand Hyatt Hotel
 Washington, DC

APRIL 2020

AAHRA Spring Workshop
 April 13-15
 Hyatt Regency
 Birmingham, AL

WVAHA Spring Workshop
 April 14-16
 Hampton Inn & Suites
 Morgantown, WA

WVAHA Spring Workshop
 April 14-16
 Hampton Inn & Suites
 Morgantown, WA

TAHRA Annual Commissioner's Conference
 April 15-17
 Embassy Suites
 Murfreesboro, TN

MAY 2020

VAHCDO UPCS Training
 May 13-15
 Bristol Redevelopment & Housing Authority
 Bristol, VA

GAHRA Sprig Workshop
 May 17-18
 Westin Jekyll Island Hotel
 Jekyll Island, GA

MAHRO Annual Occupancy Workshop
 May 26-28
 Westin Downtown
 Jackson, MS

2020 SERCulator Deadlines

Spring..... April 15

SummerAugust 1

Fall..... November 1

WinterJanuary 15

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