



# Neighborhoods, USA

## General Membership Meeting Minutes

### Saturday, May 27, 2017

1001 Cass St. Omaha, Nebraska – Hilton Omaha Downtown

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Annual general membership meeting is called to order at 9:36am by Tige Watts. Angela Rush led the pledge of allegiance. Tige Watts introduced the NUSA Board of Directors. Mr. Watts introduced the Parliamentarian Nylanne Schiendigger.

#### II. REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS - SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

Five (5) resolutions were submitted prior to the 5pm deadline during the conference. Robert Walker submitted four (4) resolutions. Two (2) were similar in topic and therefore combined. Jason Bergerson submitted one (1) resolution.

Jason invited Robert Walker, from Little Rock up to speak to his resolutions.

Robert Walker stated the following:

1. Whereas, no one can attend all presentations, and info is presented and shared, NUSA should prioritize the maintenance and distribution of information for the membership. **Elton Gatewood moved, Glati Smith from Syracuse, NY seconded. Resolution #2 adopted.**
2. Resolution #3 – speaking to the need for online platforms and social media can be used, and whereas information can encourage dialogue between members. Mr. Walker would like to have live audio instead of just the PowerPoint presentations. Janet Bonet Omaha, NE; Carrie Young, Little Rock, AR. Lisa Middleton asked the resolution was going to change the bylaws and if so, she has concerns. Jason Bergerson said the resolutions cannot change bylaws. Monique Coleman noted we are looking into an online networking platform.
3. Resolutions #4 (Robert Walker's) – wants to have an online platform to compare cities. Annie Rodgers noted HUD has this information online already. Ms. McCadden asked how are we going to get cities involved. What cities are we wanting this information from?
4. Linda Bores, Omaha, NE – concerned it will be misused.
5. Bob Ruepke, Anchorage, AK – can't compare cities.
6. Brenda Tenner from Little Rock, AR – stated we can get information from the bureau of statistics.
7. Janet Bonet, Omaha, NE – asking too much for NUSA.
8. Elton Gatewood, Tacoma, WA – call the question.

Jason Bergerson's resolution – 18 cities and 14 states are represented on the NUSA board. 1.5% of the national population. 322mil in the nation. NUSA board membership is limited to 2 persons per city.

1. Dora Simms from Birmingham, AL asked if there was something that were to change. Jason Bergerson said no.
2. Estella McCadden said this was asked about several years ago. Motion by Jeri Pryor and second by Robert Walker. Robert ?, from Palm Springs asked if this was just for a strategic.
3. Precious Makessit from Omaha, NE.
4. Maxine Coleman from Hattisburg, MS.- thinks it's a great idea.
5. Dora Sims, from Birmingham, AL – reach out to get more people to the table. Asking for clarity. Provide direction to the board to improve outreach.
6. Elton is asking about a strategic plan or a change to two persons per city or two persons per state.
7. Brenda Tenner, Little Rock, AR – proposing a strategic plan from continuing growth. NUSA effort to think towards growth. Growth is necessary. People change and ideas change. We will request ideas to promote growth. Continually discuss options to enhance our outreach and include outreach to all places across the united states. Continue to grow.
8. Lisa Middleton, Palm Springs, CA. Well-intentioned effort to expand our board. Does not commit use to anything but would be concerned with two per state because California has 1 in 8 people live and a limit of 2 per state would limit representation from California.
9. Linda from Omaha, NE – host cities should have outreach requirements in their bid packets.
10. Annie Rodgers, MA – we should have a plan. Why are the cities that we mail to not reach out. In full support of anything that does not change the bylaws.
11. Veronica Johnson, Birmingham, AL – aggressively recruits all over the state and the plan should include a plan that covers the young and the old.
12. Tom from Tacoma, WA – in full support of a strategic plan.

**Loretta, Buckner opposed, Monique Coleman, abstained. The resolution, charging the board with considering the assessment of the geographical area from which board members are permitted, passed.**

### III. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Monique went over the minutes. They were approved as corrected. There were two corrections and Loretta asked or her signature to be changed.

### IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Anne Marie Taylor went over the treasurer's report. No approval was required.

1. Dora Adams, Birmingham, AL- asked about income/expense
2. Loretta Buckner, Wichita, KS, asked about purchase of laptop for board Secretary's use; Angela Rush stated there is a computer and in NUSA custody. The computer was purchased and it was done in the last fiscal year, thus it would not be on this fiscal year's report.

## **V. BOARD ELECTION RESULTS**

Beryl-McCadden-Pritko went over the newly elected members of the board of directors:

1. Dr. Gregory Jones 157 votes
2. Mr. Robinson 156 votes
3. Sandy Becker 146 votes
4. Ian Randolph 142 votes
5. Charmaine Clark 136 votes
6. Anne-Marie Taylor 128 votes
7. Catherine Huckabee – 119 votes

- 65% of people were first-time attendees. Ms. McCadden-Pritko concluded her report.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Tige asked for unfinished business. There was none.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Tige asked for new business. There was none.

## **VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CONFERENCE**

1. Maxine Coleman – Hattisburg, MS. People taking calls in the session. Do not take calls.
2. Estelle McCadden – Roanoke, VA. Put something in the booklet for voting. We need to have something in there so folks know what is required for voting. Wants to invite everyone to Virginia Statewide Conference. Going to have to get the youth involved if we want to grow.
3. Precious McKesson – Omaha, NE. A lot of personal conversation in the workshop sessions.
4. James Roseboro – Wichita, KS. Filling out an application for Awards. Need to be more information; not knowing what to put into the application.
5. Shirley Harris- Roanoke, Va. - Boys Town tour awesome. She was very impressed.
6. Tom Ebenhoh – Tacoma, WA – excellent conference. There was a lot of disruptions. Engaged so much discussion.
7. Ashley Ruth Evans – Wichita, KS. Tips. Really important. Create something for kids. Technology, food. Scholarships.
8. Greg McNeil – Memphis, TN – Workshops are hard to find.
9. Janis Clark – Tacoma, WA – commend all of the planners from Omaha, NE. It's a lot of work. Keep up the great work, NUSA.
10. Mary Thompson – Omaha, NE. She was one of the instigators when she didn't know the voting procedures. Some of the tours were not well attended. If you sign up, show up.
11. Peggy Miles – Birmingham, AL. Welcome to Birmingham. We will have good food for you and we will have time for folks to take breaks and not be too busy.
12. Terri Wright – Birmingham, AL. Have community banks. No so dependent on wall street. Welcome to Birmingham, AL.

13. Janet Bonet – Omaha, NE. Voting needs to be near the plenary sessions. If people would be interested in attending a roundtable topics session. Wanted to have more conversations. Last year there was a session: talk to us, not about us (about millennials). As a tour leader, had no way of knowing who signed up for the pride tours. Have contact information. Have tour organizers email address and cell phone number so they can be contacted.
14. Sheryl Johnson, Birmingham, AL. Thank you to T-11 tour. All were engineers, architects or lawyers. Next year, tell your people if there will be snacks or a meal. US Census.gov for city statistics.
15. Beryl McCadden-Pritko, Gardena, CA. In her session, she said people didn't know when they were voting for. NUSA has a website, please use it.
16. Angel Martin – Omaha, NE – thank you and kudos to volunteers. Omaha, NE is the birthplace of Malcolm X.
17. Maxine Coleman, MS – typically takes the pre-conference tour. The booklet should have information on where to meet for tours.
18. Elton Gatewood – we need to think about how we can help people know who to vote for if they are new to NUSA
19. Janet Wilson – Wichita, KS. Why was there not a roundtable for the board candidates? Thank you to Omaha for your hospitality. New people need to have a new introduction to NUSA. Add our website to our badges.
20. Gerri Robinson – Birmingham, AL – we've had roundtables before but welcome information if there are ways we can do it better.
21. Brenda Tenner – NUSA 101 for new members. Please think of this for the Birmingham conference.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Watts adjourned the general membership meeting at 11:10am