

**IAOHRA 2023 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**August 16, 2023, 4:00 p.m. (EST)**  
**North Bethesda Marriott, Bethesda MD**  
**White Flint Amphitheater**  
**Minutes**

Attendance: See attached list of the delegates attending the meeting.

Seating of the Delegates

IAOHRA Board Co-Treasurers Angela Rush and Carrie Peace Simmons facilitated the seating of the delegates.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Alisa Warren at 4:16 p.m. (EST).

President Warren announced that there was a quorum.

Introduction of the IAOHRA Board of Directors

President Warren briefly introduced the IAHORA Board members.

President's Report

President Warren provided the membership with an oral report of her President's Report. In it, she highlighted several key items. First, she talked about her vision for the organization, highlighting her goals to increase international members, and facilitate a possible merger of IAOHRA and NAHRW. President Warren also discussed her priorities. She would like to look at ways to increase member engagement. Some of her ideas include:

- Hosting quarterly agency spotlights, similar to a radio program or podcast
- Posting job opportunities on the IAOHRA website
- Ramping up IAOHRA's marketing and social media efforts
- Expanding IAOHRA's membership domestically and internationally
- Distribution of a new IAOHRA fact sheet. The fact sheet will be emailed to the membership for sharing with our contacts.
- Taking steps to better capture IAOHRA's history including the digitalization of records and financial documents

President Warren also discussed the creation of an Inaugural Honorary Board of Advisors. She reported that Leon Russell, Chairman of the Urban League and Rep. James Clyburn have both agreed to serve in this capacity. The Board of Advisors will be essential in helping to expand the membership, developing key contacts, and advising the Board of Directors.

President Warren then provided a brief report of the Board of Directors' Spring Meeting in Washington D.C. She stated the board had great meetings with our government partners as well as our NGO partners.

The board members also visited Capitol Hill to speak with members of Congress about important human and civil rights issues, including requesting support for a National Human Rights Institute.

Yolanda Sonnier, Howard County Office of Human Rights & Equity asked President Warren if the issue of merging with NAHRW would be decided by a vote of the membership. President Warren explained that yes, the merger would have to be approved by the membership, but added at this time the idea is only in the exploratory phase. Yolanda also asked if there is a strategic plan to increase membership. President Warren referred to the new IAOHRA fact sheet, stating she encourages the membership to use it and share it with prospective members. Diane Clements-Boyd added that it is important for us to come together and develop relationships. She noted that all the sessions of the conference are being taped so the information will be available to the membership. She also encouraged each region to hold quarterly seminars to help keep interest in IAOHRA growing.

#### Treasurer's Report

Angela Rush gave a brief overview of the Treasurer's report which was distributed to the delegates. Yolanda Sonnier mentioned that the reports have not been posted on the IAOHRA website. Angela stated she will ask IAOHRA's administrative staff person Lisa Sims to post them. It was also asked whether IAOHRA has plans to hire an executive director, and whether the budget can support it. Angela responded no. President Warren then explained that hiring an executive director is a long-term goal. She noted that all the work of the organization is currently being handled by the board and volunteers. She stated she would hope an executive director could be brought on in the next three to five years. James Davis, Durham Human Relations Commission asked whether the board has been looking into grant funding. Angela stated that there had been some initial steps to seek out grant funding. Cleveland Horton, Maryland Commission on Human Rights asked whether IAOHRA received any federal funding for the conference. Angela responded no, but federal funds were used to pay for the attendance of many of the conference attendees. She stated she and Jim Stowe, Montgomery County Maryland Commission on Human Rights had begun the work of applying for a federal grant for the conference but were not able to do so.

#### Minutes of August 17, 2022, Annual Meeting

Ken Gunn, Board Secretary noted that the attendance list was not added to the minutes, but noted the registration list was reviewed to determine the attendance. A motion was made by Jean Kelleher to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Rev. Donzella Lee, Franklin- Simpson County Commission on Human Rights, and passed unanimously.

#### Resolutions

A motion was made by Yolanda to table the vote on the resolutions. However, an extensive discussion ensued before a second to the motion could be made. Several delegates recommended that the resolutions not be voted on at that time due to a number of errors identified, and the short time period in which the members had to review them. Yolanda expressed her concern that the IAOHRA Bylaws require that resolutions be provided to the delegates two weeks in advance of a vote. After additional discussion, a motion was made by Diane Clements-Boyd to have the resolutions reviewed and edited by the Resolutions Committee, and then reviewed by the Executive Board before having the resolutions returned to the membership for a vote. The motion was seconded by JoAnn Kamuf Ward and passed unanimously. There was a recommendation by Rev. Charles Johnson, Henderson County Human Rights

Commission to create a position of Parliamentarian for the organization. Love Jones, Greensboro Human Relations Department made a recommendation to make the annual business meeting longer, or in the alternative, hold two sessions, with the last one for the purposes of voting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Rev. Lee, and was seconded by Byron Bishop, City of Madison Department of Civil Rights, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. (EST)

Submitted by Kenneth Gunn, Board Secretary