



1953

Henry “Hank” B. Watkins Jr. served as Board President in 1953 and 1967. In addition, he was Chairman of the zoning board, served six years as a Collier County Commissioner. He was a Charter member of the Naples Exchange Club and Chair of the Elks Club. He served as President of the Chamber of Commerce and was appointed by H.U.D. to serve on the Community Housing Resources Board. In 1966 he was awarded REALTOR of the Year. In 1968 Henry Watkins served on the REALTOR-Lawyer Committee of FAR. In 1968 he served as Chairman of the Naples Hospital Board and also Chairman of the School Board.

In 2003 he was inducted into the prestigious NABOR Hall of Fame.

Standing Committees developed by the Board in 1953 were as follows: Arbitration and Grievance, Legislative, Membership, Finance, Welfare and Education (for Salesmen), and Attendance.

The Board ruled that whenever a member of the Naples-on-the Gulf Board of REALTORS made a sale or exchanged a property listed by another member of the Board, the commission shall be divided as follows: Sixty (60) per cent to the selling broker; forty (40) per cent to the listing broker, unless otherwise agreed upon by both REALTORS at the time of listing or exchange.

Per the Naples Daily News in 1953.

- Naples has the highest U.S. growth rate and building permits hit \$2.5million for the second year.
- The post office now has factory made mailboxes; three service windows and a bulletin board.
- A television receiver was operated from an antenna on top of the city water tower and brought in The World Series.
- The City Mosquito Patrol sprayed the streets every night and mosquitoes were seldom seen after sundown.
- Coconut palms were being planted in many areas of the city.
- Rotary dial phones came to town.
- Surfside Homes can build a two-bedroom house on your lot for \$8,750 according to an ad in the Collier News.
- A new four-bedroom house on Gordon Drive and 21st Street S. sold for \$ 19,500.
- On July 4, 1953 the Naples Airport was dedicated as the Naples America Airport. Per the Naples Daily News.