

Friday, May 16, 2025  
10:00 am ET  
Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3177219365?pwd=1HL6VhD9ta4284YdJxihGI1RfdD3LV.1&omn=82591057352>

Meeting ID: 317 721 9365

Passcode: iaace2025

**Present:** Dustin Bentz, Carol Bible, Caroline Foster, Shawn Hughes, Amy Richmund, David Shepard, Deb Sherwood, Mike Thombleson, Katie Walton, Maeve Warrick, Jenn Wigginton,  
**Guests:** Erin Vobornik, Marilyn Pitzulo, Lara Pastore, and Rob Moore  
**Absent:** Denise Eslinger

- I. Call Meeting to order- Katie
- II. Introduction of Guest Speaker Erin Vobornik  
COABE Initiatives Director                      <https://coabe.org/coabe-staff>
  - a. Cancelled
- III. Approval of 2024 Member Meeting Minutes Deb Sherwood
  - a. Annual Member Meeting Minutes for review  
<https://iaace.com/membership-annual meeting/>
  - b. Link in newsletter
  - c. File to download in chat
  - d. Motion to approve: Konnie McCollum
    - Seconded by: Amy Richmund
    - All approved
- IV. Treasurer Report Dustin Bentz  
2024-2025 Budget to actual as of May 1, 2025
  - a. Total Revenue
    - i. Budget \$230,352
    - ii. Actual: \$244,445.89
    - iii. Difference: +\$ 14,093.39
  - b. Key Line Items
    - i. Individual Memberships: \$20,636.27
    - ii. Conference Fees: \$135,554.39

- iii. Sponsorships/Collaborations: \$56,802.92
- iv. ILA Funds/Donations:\$1442.3?
- c. General Expenses Summary
  - i. Budgeted: \$78,458.99
  - ii. Actual: \$68,129.82
  - iii. Savings: -\$10,328.18
- d. Highlights
  - i. Contract Labor: \$31,855.00, Insurance: \$1242.00
  - ii. Membership Relations: \$31,160.92, Travel: \$1217.32
  - iii. GOAT Mentoring: \$25,000, Postage/Mailbox: \$607.67
- e. Total Conference Expenses
  - i. Budgeted: \$114,300.00
  - ii. Actual: \$147,516.71
  - iii. Overage: +\$33,216.71
- f. Total Expenses
  - i. Budgeted: \$140,400
  - ii. Actual: \$215,646.53
  - iii. Variance: +\$ 75,246.53
- g. Revenue Over Expenses
  - i. Budgeted: \$89,952.50
  - ii. Actual: \$28,799.36
  - iii. Variance: -\$61,153.14
- h. Motion to Approve- Caroline Foster
  - i. Second by David Shepard
  - ii. All approved

## V. Board Election Results

- a. Announcing New Officers
  - i. President-Elect: Dustin Bentz- Jennings County Schools, Region 9
  - ii. Secretary: Maeve Warrick- Wayne Township Adult Education, Region 5
- b. Announcing Board Members at Large
  - i. Jane Coulter- Ivy Tech Corrections, Region 9

- ii. Mark Fridenmaker- Ivy Tech Corrections, Region 1
- iii. Leo Patino- Warsaw Adult Education, Region 2
- c. Board Vacancies filled by
  - i. Laura Elsbrock- Area 30 Adult Education, Region 7
  - ii. Hannah Price- Indiana Online Only, Region 11
- d. Board members' term ends June 30, 2025
  - i. Konnie McCollum- Past President, River Valley Resources, Region 9,10
  - ii. Deb Sherwood- Secretary, Region 2
  - iii. Shawn Hughes- Ivy Tech Corrections Region 7
  - iv. Amy Richmund- ConnectAble Education, Region 5
  - v. Michael Thombleson- Ivy Tech Corrections, Region 6
- e. Board of Directors Calendar
  - i. 2025- July 11, August 8, September 23, October 10, November 14, December 12
  - ii. 2026- January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12
  - iii. Annual Member/Transitional meeting - In-person; May 15th, Location TBD

## VI. Old Business- Katie Watson

- a. Conference
  - i. Profit: \$49,302.74
  - ii. Income: \$203,372.61
  - iii. Registration intake: \$127,421.21
    - 1. 384 Attendees
    - 2. Sponsors/Collaborations: \$73,792.15
  - iv. Total Expenses: \$154,069.87
    - 1. Belterra: \$133,784.11(food,technology,hotel rooms)
    - 2. Awards: \$1043.75
    - 3. Keynotes: \$11,366.95
    - 4. Misc.: \$4310.71
    - 5. Gifts to attendees: \$3,564.35

## VII. New Business

- a. Bylaw Changes
  - i. Linked to <https://docs.google.com/document/> NOTE links to multiple docs

- ii. Motion to Approve: Konnie McCollum
  - 1. Second by Dustion Bentz
  - 2. All Approved
- b. Projected 2025-2026 Budget
  - i. Shared on screen
  - ii. Motion to Approve: Michael Thomblason
    - 1. Second by: Laura Elsbrock
    - 2. All Approved

VIII. ILA Report- Melinda Grismer- President

a. Financial Summary- Sheila Butler- Treasurer/Secretary

- i. Beginning Balance (April 1, 2025): \$8,800.23
- ii. Fundraising Deposits:
- iii. Silent Auction- PayPal:\$3,276.32, In-person: \$2,888.00
- iv. Total Income: \$6,164.32
- v. Adult Ed Day Expenses: \$1,000
- vi. Program Grants Awarded
  - NEO-\$898
  - River Valley- \$902
  - Warsaw- \$960
  - Whitewater- \$1000
- vii. Operating Expenses: \$301.99
- viii. Total Expenses: \$4,061.99
- ix. Ending balance: (April 30, 2025): \$9,902.56
- x. Motion to approve: Michelle Ellis
  - Second by: Katie Walton
  - All approved

b. Bylaw Changes

- i. Article Three: Board members shall serve from the time of his or her election until the expiration of their term limit.
- ii. Article Four: The combined position of treasurer and secretary is separated into two positions.

- iii. Collaborating organizations can recommend appointees to the Board of Directors.
- iv. Any member of the organization can express their interest in serving on the board, and the chair shall review all recommendations to present a slate of candidates. Candidates for officer positions within the association must be current members of the board. The Board of Directors shall vote on a representative slate.
- v. Motion to approve: Caroline Foster  
Second by: Dustin Bentz  
All approved.
- vi. Slate of officers: Melinda Grismer-President  
Michelle Ellis-Vice President  
Sheila Butler- Treasurer  
Katie Watson- Secretary  
Konnie McClollum- At Large Board Member  
Tom Miller- Board Member and IAACE Appointee  
Caroline Foster-IAACE President Elect Board Member (MOU)  
and designate the IAACE Appointee  
Motion to Approve: Katie Walton  
Second by:  
All Approved
- vii. Successes:
  - a. Renewed MOU with IAACE
  - b. Partnered with IAACE with 2024 Conference Silent Auction
  - c. Applied for two grants: Wish You Well Foundation and Better World Books
  - d. Literacy grants for members organizations \$3760
- viii. Goals for 2025
  - a. ILA will offer a literacy-focused Lunch and Learn at the annual conference.
  - b. Grow and develop board of directors; increase committees and board membership
  - c. Increase mini-grant opportunities for member organizations
  - d. Continue fundraising opportunities in support of IAACE/MOU.
  - e. Looking into partnership with Lilly Foundation, and other possible funding opportunities.

## IX. Committee Reports

### A. Advocacy

#### i. Chair: Denise Esslinger

- a. 15 IAACE member
- b. 2 DWD
- c. Lauren Box= Lobbyist
- d. Monthly meetings: Second Tuesday 11am to 12pm
- e. Open to increase new member involvement

#### ii. Accomplishments and Progress

- a. AEFL Week
- b. Governor's Proclamation- Governor Holcomb
- c. Mayor's Proclamation- Mayor Terry (Evansville)
- d. Numerous social media posts
- e. IAACE Advocacy Series
- f. Speak Up! Advocacy Beginning
- g. Speak Up! Advocacy in Action
- h. Adult Education Impact Fact Sheet
- i. COABE Presentation
- j. Advocacy April
- k. IAACE Advocacy Challenge
- l. Adult Education Day at Statehouse- February 11, 2025
  - i. 300 attendees
  - ii. Three Legislative Speakers, DWD Commissioner
  - iii. 60+ Student Essay Submissions
  - iv. Strategic Communication to Indiana Legislators

#### iii. Goals and Challenges

- a. AEFL Week
  - i. Governor's Proclamation
  - ii. Multiple Mayoral Proclamation
- b. IAACE Conference
  - i. Advocacy Sessions

- ii. Advocacy Social Media Guide

- c. Adult Education Day- September 10, 2025

- i. Create timeline tasks

- ii. Create Adult Education Day Subcommittee

## B. Professional Development

- i. Chair- Caroline Foster, co-chair- Konnie McCollum

- a. Teacher Talk Webinars led by Mauve Warrick

- b. Website build up.

## C. Collaboration and Engagement

- i. Chair- Amy Richmund

- a. Six IAACE Members

- b. Monthly meetings

- c. Open to increase members committee involvement

- ii. Current year membership

- a. Total Membership: 485

- b. Individual Membership-268

- c. Organizational Membership (10-30 members) - 5

- d. Institutional Memberships (101+ members) - 1

- iii. Objectives

- a. Increase membership engagement and member retention

- b. Ensure all members are informed, interests are represented and have a voice to provide feedback, express opinions, interests and questions.

- c. Provide opportunities to strengthen connections among members.

- d. Foster mutually beneficial collaboration relationships.

- e. Develop and implement creative and dynamic communication

- f. Foster open communication channels among the IAACE committees

- g. Share success stories and collaborative achievements to inspire and motivate further member engagement.

- h. Widen outreach to increase student memberships, organizational memberships and communities, partnerships,

- iv. Membership Benefits

- i. Advocacy opportunities
- Conference Discount
- Professional Development
- Platform access
- Everwise Credit Union Membership
- COABE Membership
- Indiana Literacy Association Membership
- E-Newsletters, Blog, Zoom Chats

D. Conference //iaace.com/conference-promo

- i. Chair: Caroline Foster, co-chair Katie Walton
- ii. 2025 IAACE Conference “Hit it Out of the Ball Park with Adult Education”
  - a. Blue Chip Casino Resort, Michigan City
  - b. September 24, 25, 26, 2025
  - c. Hotel Reservations open July 1, 2025
  - d. Early Bird Registration by July 1st- August 15th
    - i. Member: \$345
    - ii. Non- Member: \$445
  - e. Late Registration Fee: August 16th- September 9th
    - i. Members- \$395
    - ii. Non member- \$495

X. Mentoring Project- Rob Moore

- i. Introduced the Indiana Adult Education Mentoring Project, a collaborative initiative between the state Adult Education Office, DWD, and IAACE.
- ii. Project provides professional learning and consulting services to new and veteran local program directors.
- iii. Monthly reminders are sent out with important deadlines and tips for program leadership, and individual meetings are held to discuss specific issues.
- iv. A new adult education directors course is offered, covering various topics and providing 10 hours of professional development upon completion. Sixty-four began the program, with twenty-one participants completed. This program counts towards 10 hours of professional development.

## XI. DWD Updates with Marilyn Pitzulo and Lara Pastore

- i. Current Adult Education Program Metrics (as of 5.16.25):
  - a. 25,940, 69.75%
  - b. 3,866 IET enrollments 3,680
  - c. 3,469 WEI enrollments 3,372
  - d. HSE: 3,309
  - e. Gains across the board in everything except HSEs.
- ii. Priority areas for 25-26:
  - a. Streamline systems and automate required activities
  - b. Employment follow-up report
  - c. WEI/IET Application
  - d. Monthly fiscal activity report
- iii. Retain focus on improved outcomes
  - a. HSE increase – 10% above; 5,000
  - b. Enrollment – 25,000+
  - c. IET/WEI
    - NCCER
    - Entrepreneurship
  - d. Employment metric
- iii. DWD will begin oversight and administration of the Workforce Development Diploma
- iv. Areas that intersect with IAACE
  - a. Success stories – format the template and manage submission
  - b. WEI employer engagement
    - Develop best practices for increased engagement
    - Create support forms

## XII. Announcements

- i. Conference 2025: September 24-26 at Blue Chip Hotel and Spa in Michigan City, IN
- ii. COABE 2026: Indianapolis, IN on April 12-16 @ JW Marriott
- iii. Adult Education Day: February 10, 2026; Essay Contest Release- August 15th.
- iv. Open Awards Nomination Process: May 28th- August 15th.
- v. Awards Decision Process: August 16th- September 2nd.
- vi. Join Committee: Advocacy, Conference Planning, Professional Development, Collaboration, Resources, and COABE 2026 Task Force Volunteer Team

vii. Communication Links

Membership Directory: <https://iaace.com/member-directory/>

Platform: <https://virtual.iaace.com/>

Blog <https://iaace.com/blog/>

Monthly E-Newsletter on 3rd Thursday: <https://iaace.com/newsletter/>

Website help page: <https://iaace.com/help/>

E Newsletter Archives available:

<https://iaace.com/member-benefits/archive-member-newsletters/>

Calendar: <https://iaace.com/calendar-of-events/>

Podcast: [www.iaace.com/podcast/](http://www.iaace.com/podcast/)

[www.youtube.com/@iaacedirector](http://www.youtube.com/@iaacedirector)

XIII. Motion to Adjourn: Konnie McCollum

Second by: Melinda Grismer

All Approved