



2026 IAACE/ILA Annual Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 15, 2026

10:00 am ET

Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 317 721 9365

Passcode: iaace2025

Invited: Hannah Price, Jenn Wigginton, Denise Esslinger, Tom Miller, Leo Patino, Katie Walton, Maeve Warrick, David Shepherd, Mark Fridenmaker, Jane Coulter, Caroline Foster, Lauren Box, Lara Pastore, Nickie Nolting, Rob Moore, Carol Bible, Laura Elsbrock, All IAACE Members

Attendance: Maeve Warrick, Jenn Wigginton, Katie Walton, Denise Esslinger, Caroline Foster, Laura Elsbrock, Carol Bible, David Shepherd, Mark Fridenmaker., Jane Coulter, Katie Sattler, Tom Miller, Adrienne Carrol, Hannah Price, Ryan LaPlante, Leo Patino, Rob Moore, Marilyn Pitzulo, Jerry Haffner, Lauren Box, Sheila Akinleye, Sharon Bonney, Juliana Bengs, Kristi Hanson, Matt Crites, Stacey King, Natalie Reuter, Robert Siegfried, Daniela Mancusi-Shreve, Lisa Cruea, Joetta Mayfield, Donna Lovelady, Amy Ramer, Linda Brinkman, Meredith Boaz, Megan Hibbard, Jodie Stone, Jon Eichelberg, Jodie Stone, Ani Walker, Trina Vickers, Chelsea Harris, Shubitha Kever, Cynthia Hurt, Mandy Sullivan, Nicole Kelso, Elizabeth Alber, Trina Vickers, Angela Reffo, Brenda Gaston, Michelle Ellis, Nickie Nolting, Lara Pastore

Absent:

I. Call to order Caroline Foster - 10:00 am

II. Guest Speaker - COABE- Sharon Bonney

- A. Shared a Video
- B. 2,584, third largest attendance
- C. 500 sessions
- D. 48 volunteers
- E. Received feedback from participants is inspired and hopeful after attending

III. Barnes and Thornburg Lobbyist Report-Lauren Box

- A. House Enroll Act 1195, extend High School Equivalency program for two years



- B. Contested primary-lost six incumbents, five of whom are committee chairs, significant shift in leadership. Senator Bray leadership potentially will be challenged.
- C. Rep. Michelle Davis (House of Representatives) in line to be in Senate
- D. 2027 is a budget session. Successful in the 2025 session for line item increase, successful throughout the session until the 2.9 billion dollar revenue fall. The budget was then slashed. The goal will be to increase Adult Education funding back to 2.9 million. The economy is trending better.
 - 1. Continue to build relationships with local officials

IV. State/DWD Report - Lara Pastore

- A. Celebrations: IAACE Conference, Programs of Excellence, AE Day at the Statehouse, Professional Development Recompete (IAACE received 6 year contract), hosted COABE, the Indiana Mentor Project, consistent engagement and partnership.
- B. State Legislative Session-expend impact using common phrases, “educating” others about adult education standpoint.
- C. New Commissioner, Kate Shelby, overall positive appreciation of Adult Education. Confident that there will be good standing with new leadership.


V. Indiana Mentor Report - Rob Moore

- A. Collaborative initiative between IAACE and DWD.
- B. Monthly Minders are archived on IAACE website for reference resources
- C. Common questions during PGY 25-26 include program performance and meeting goals, pre/post test strategies, increase HSE completions, IETs/WEIs, hiring new staff, etc.
- D. 64 leaders have started virtual course, 34 have completed
- E. Preapprenticeship support to elevate IETs to registered apprenticeship program
 - 1. 39 IETs are certified preapprenticeship programs, held in 25 of 53 AE programs, 11 out of 12 Regions.

VI. IAACE President Update- Caroline Foster

- A. Four active campaigns: partner with stakeholders, promote AE programs, support members, lead profession development.
- B. 3 paid staff: Executive Director, Mentor, and Lobbyist
- C. Regional Representation added to board for equitable representation across the state of Indiana

VII. 2025 IAACE/ILA Annual Meeting minutes’ review (published on the website)

- 1. <https://iaace.com/membership-annual-meeting/>
- 2.  Copy of iaace annual meeting minutes 2025 May 16



- a) Motion - Marilyn Pitzulo
- b) Second - Katie Walton
- c) Approved by all

VIII. IAACE Treasurer Report 2025-2026- Laura Elsbrock

- A. Conference Expenses
 1. Budgeted 113,300.00
 2. Actual Expenses \$84,140.62
 3. Total Reduction \$29,159.38
- B. General Expense Summary
 1. Budgeted \$78,458.00
 2. Actual Expenses \$68,129.82
 3. Total Reduction \$10,328.18
- C. Final Overview
 1. Budgeted: Revenue \$234,750, Expenses \$222,397, Surplus \$12,353
 2. Actual as of 5/1/26: Revenue \$233,790, Expenses \$176,579, Surplus \$57,211
 - a) Motion - Carol Bible
 - b) Second - David Shepherd
 - c) Approved by all

IX. New Business:

- A. 2026-2027 Budget Presented by Laura Elsbrock
 1. Membership numbers are similar to previous year, conference fees and sponsorship are raised, allowing IAACE to have funding needed to support the conference.
 - a) Actively looking for additional sponsors and partnership
 2. Most expenses are the same, small adjustments as prices are generally increasing
 3. Expected revenue: \$280,000, Expected Expenses: \$248,958 (General \$112,108; Conference \$136,850, Profit: \$31,042)
 - a) Motion - Matt Crites
 - b) Second - Denise Esslinger
 - c) Approved by all
- B. Board & Election Results-Natalie Reuter, Nomination & Election Committee (Lisa Cruea, Laura Smart)
 1. Ryan LaPlante- President-Elect
 2. Katie Walton- Treasurer
 3. Board Members: Adrienne Carrol, Marilyn Pitzulo, Hannah Price, Katie Sattler
- C. Thanks for Service- Caroline



1. Leaving the board are:
 - a) Laura Elsbrock (Treasurer)
 - b) Carol Bible
 - c) Melinda Haines
 - d) David Shepherd
 2. Board Calendar 2025-2026
- B. Bylaw Changes- Caroline Foster
1. Bylaw changes reviewed have been shared with general membership and are able to be viewed via website
 - a) [w](#) Bylaws Revision PROPOSED 2026 .docx
 - b) Motion - Laura Elsbrock
 - c) Second - David Shepherd
 - d) Approved by all

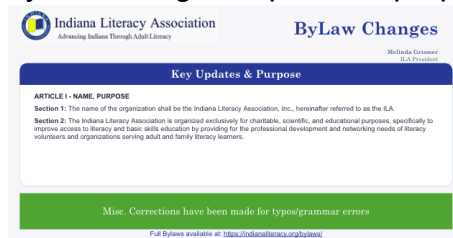
XI. Old Business:

- A. 2025 Conference- #'s report - Caroline
 1. 305 attendees, 130 members, 26 non-members, 149 organizational registrations.
 2. 20 Sponsors & Exhibitors
 3. Less expended (\$84,140.62) than initially budgeted (\$113,000.00)
- B. Strategic Plan (expiring December 2026)
 1. Membership Survey <https://forms.gle/6WQ9Uqj4hWWJ7VzVA>
(Survey closes June 30th)
 2. Standing Committee Reports:
 - a) Professional Development - Katie Walton
 - (1) Reformatted Teacher Talks with video formats and released on website
 - (2) Monthly PD webinars with field experts
 - (3) Repository of Resources needs improvements/updates
 - (4) Next PD is June 18 with Human IT, Preparing Adult Learners with an AI Driven Workforce
 - b) Conference Committee - [Denise Esslinger](#)
 - (1) 30 Members, many involved in subcommittee
 - (2) "Together We Make Magic Happen" Theme for Conference 2026, September 30- Oct 1, 2 at Belterra Resort, Florence, IN
 - (a) July 1: Early Bird Registration opens
 - (3) Keynote: Lewis Chaney
 - (4) Call for Proposals is open! The deadline is June 5th
 - (5) Invitation to join committee
 - c) Collaboration & Engagement Committee - David Shepherd
 - (1) 482 total individual members that includes 238 individuals, 8 organizational with 99 individuals and



One Institutional that includes 145 members, 25 student memberships

- (2) Best Practice for Collecting and Managing Student Success Stories reviewed
 - (3) Call for members to actively participate and engage in IAACE
 - (4) IAACE Membership Video advertisement reveal
 - (5) Recognition Awards nominations opens May 28th
 - (6) Invitation to join committee with the goal for a smooth transition and collaboration with all committees and response on survey
- d) Advocacy Committee - Denise Esslinger
- (1) 10 committee members, 2 DWD Members, 1 lobbyist
 - (2) Monthly meetings are 2nd Tuesday, 11am
 - (3) AEFL Week, Flood the Hill, AE Day at the Statehouse
 - (4) Governor Braun Engagement highlights: speaker at Adult Ed day, video welcome for COABE conference and signing of HEA 1195
 - (5) Social Media award granted from COABE
 - (6) Goals for Next year, local legislative relationship, 2026 AEFL Week, Adult Education Day 2027 save the date of February 16, 2027
 - (7) Invitation to join committee
- e) Resource Committee /Indiana Literacy Association-Michelle Ellis, Vice President
- (1) Financial Report
 - \$2,781 Total Income, \$5118.41 Total Expenses, Total Ending Checking and Savings Balance: \$7,511.15
 - IU Credit Union Account ending balance: \$563.50
 - (a) Motion - Hannah Price
 - (b) Second - Katie Walton
 - (c) Approved by all
 - (2) Bylaw Changes- Update to purpose statement



- (a) Motion - Adrienne Carrol
- (b) Second - Denise Esslinger
- (c) Approved by all



- (3) Proposed ILA Board Member Slate: Tom Miller, and Denise Esslinger for At Large Positions. Treasurer Position is Open as of July 1
 - (a) Motion - Carol Bible
 - (b) Second - Jane Coulter
 - (c) Approved by all
- (4) Reviewed success of collaboration on 2025 conference with a lunch and learn, board member development, cultivating mini grant opportunities, continuing fundraising opportunities to support membership and the spark aid fund.
- (5) Goals of new membership statement, leverage a capacity grant, collaborate on 2026 conference and revisit strategic plan tasks lists

XII. Announcements

- A. Save the Date - 7/21 Indianapolis Indians Game
- B. Spark Aid Fund indianaliteracy.org/spark-aid-fund/
- C. June Professional Development Session-6/18
- D. Award Timeline, Nominations open May 27, 2026
- E. Join an IAACE Committee on the website at iaace.com/committee-sign-up/
- F. Communication Links
- G. Membership Survey- Deadline June 30th
- H. Certificate of Attendance will be emailed

XIII. Adjourn Meeting

- a) Motion - Marilyn Pitzulo
- b) Second - Jerry Haffner
- c) Approved by all

XIV. General Member Comments and Questions

Meeting is adjourned at 11:42am