



SEAC - March 19, 2025 - Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting Attendees

Courtney Smith	Julie Wendorf	Cecile LaCombe Petro	Julie McElmurry
Cal Bellamy	Neil Stout	Sheryl Corey	Abbe Trent
Dr. Vanessa Allen-McCloud	Richard Hardaway	Mike McIntyre	Todd Larkin
John Seibert	Karen Marben	Janice Malinowski	

Summary: The Commission reviewed the organization's membership, financial situation, upcoming expenses, and the design of a commemorative lapel pin and card for their 20th anniversary. The conversation ended with updates on upcoming ethics training sessions, communications efforts, and plans for the 20th anniversary celebration.

Next steps

- Summit Committee: Continue search for keynote speaker for the fall summit, starting with Governor Holcomb
- Julie Mc & Cal: Meet with Indiana State Inspector General Jared Prentice to introduce SEAC.
- Janice and JBOD: Roll over the \$70,000 CD plus interest at Centier Bank on April 4th for another 180 days
- Cecile: Follow up with St John town manager regarding SEAC membership progress
- Neil: Continue informal follow-up with Portage officials regarding their SEAC membership
- Julie Mc: Send get well card to Tom Digiulio on behalf of the commission
- Sheryl: Order 400 lapel pins for distribution at the Summit from Spark Marketing
- Julie Mc: Design a 5x7 card layout for the pins including SEAC description, mission statement, member communities list, and ethics pledge
- Cal: Write a historical perspective article about SEAC for the media.
- Julie Mc: Create and distribute a communications plan for the 20th anniversary activities
- Julie Mc: Send talking points, Board and Commission training flyer, and signup link to all members
- All Commissioners: Sign up for the Board and Commission training on May 29th at the Avalon
- All Commissioners: Distribute Board and Commission training flyer to their respective municipalities
- Janice: Forward Board and Commission training information to Joint Board of Delegates

The meeting was called to order at 8:30am with the reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Courtney then moved on to discuss the January 2025 minutes, which were approved unanimously (motion by Micheal McIntyre, seconded by Neil Stout).

Membership Update: In the meeting, Courtney reported that the membership was moving in the right direction, with a meeting held with Portage Mayor Bonta and his staff. The mayor is planning to present the matter of SEAC appointments to their Council in April. Neil was praised for his role in setting up the meeting and for his connection with Portage. The team also discussed the potential for Portage to attend a training session in April. There were updates on East Chicago, Highland and St John, with plans to follow up with contacts. An update was given on Tom Digiulio.



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Financial Update: Janice provided an update on the organization's finances. She reviewed the YTD report through Feb 2025 which included spending of \$313 for business supplies (updated logo folders and business cards). Janice also discussed the JBOB approved rollover of SEAC's \$70,000 CD plus interest at Centier Bank on April 4th for another 180 days. Courtney Udvare, the new clerk treasurer from Chesterton, was praised for her efficiency and positive attitude in handling the organization's financial records. The team discussed the expenditure for creating new folders with the updated logo and business cards for the executive committee. They also discussed the upcoming expenses for the summit, including the potential for commemorative pins.

Summit Update: Julie W gave an update on the Summit planning which includes finding a speaker. Currently she is focused on reaching out to Governor Holcomb. The team discussed ways to encourage Governor Holcomb to agree, and other potential speakers.

Sheryl gave an update on the proposed SEAC lapel pins. The team agreed (motion by Mike McIntyre, 2nd by Richard Hardaway) to order 400 pins, which would cover the Commissioners, Joint Board of Delegate members and Summit attendees. The pins will be given out at the summit and could be used as a token to celebrate the 20th anniversary.

The team discussed the design of a commemorative card for the lapel pins to be attached to, and agreed on including the organization's mission statement, a list of member communities, and a potentially a pledge like the one used for candidates. The card could be 5 by 7 inches in size. They also discussed potential ideas for the 20th anniversary communications, including a historical perspective article for the local newspaper and a full-page ad. The team agreed to further discuss these ideas in their upcoming executive committee meeting.

Training Committee Update: Cecile discussed upcoming ethics training sessions, including a Train the Trainer event on April 22nd and a Board and Commission training on May 29th. She encouraged communities to schedule trainings and pick up ethics guides and posters. Registration for the Board and Commission training is available on the website at [SEAC Board & Commission Training Registration](#).

Cecile proposed a training program for trainers, aiming to improve their effectiveness in engaging trainees. She suggested this could be held in the Fall. Cecile also offered to conduct 'train the trainer' sessions in late spring and encouraged new members to contact her for more information.

Communications Committee Update: Julie Mc provided updates on communications efforts, including outreach to legislators and media.

New Business: No new business.

Upcoming meetings and events are reviewed, including the next regular meeting in May and the Ethics Summit in October.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 19th, and a board and commission training is tentatively planned for May 21st. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35am.