



SHARED ETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION

SERVING NWI SINCE 2005

July 15, 2026 • SEAC Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting Attendees

	Member Community	Commissioner	Attended?
1	Burns Harbor	Neil Stout	Y
2	Cedar Lake	Sheryl Corey	Y
3	Chesterton	Abbe Trent	N
4	Crown Point	Julie Wendorf	N
5	Dyer	NO COMMISSIONER	N
6	East Chicago	NO COMMISSIONER	N
7	Gary	Dr Vanessa Allen-McCloud	N
8	Hebron	Thomas Chihocki	N
9	Hobart	NO COMMISSIONER	N
10	Lake County	Cecile LaCombe Petro	Y
11	Lake Station	NO COMMISSIONER	N
12	LaPorte County	Angie Carr	N
13	Lowell	Cyndi Hughes	N
14	Merrillville	Richard Hardaway	Y
15	Munster	Michael McIntyre	Y
16	Ogden Dunes	Todd Larkin	Y
17	Portage	NO COMMISSIONER	By Karen Anderson
18	Porter County	Courtney Smith	Y
19	Schererville	Sandra Davis	Y
20	St John	Matthew Rohr	Y
21	Valparaiso	Brian Nosbusch	Y
22	Whiting	Tim Wajvoda	Y
**	President Emeritus, At Large	Cal Bellamy	Y
**	Advisor, At Large	Michael Suggs	N
**	Advisor, At Large	Karen Marben	Y
**	Advisor, At Large	Tom DeGiulio	N
**	GUEST - Portage	Karen Anderson	Y
**	JBOD President	Janice Malinowski	Y

Call to Order: 8:30 a.m.

Approval of May 2026 Minutes:

Motion: Michael McIntyre

Second: Sheryl Corey



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Passed: Unanimously

Summary:

- Save the date for the Ethics Summit on Oct. 27 at Avalon Manor.
- The Candidate Ethics Pledge results show a high percentage of signed pledges. Thus far, 74% of candidates across Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties have signed the pledge.
- SEAC has two new commissioners. One in St. John and another in Valparaiso.
- SEAC is continuing its search for commissioners to fill vacancies in member communities.
- All member municipalities are current with dues. 2027 dues are to be turned in by Dec. 2, 2026.
- Commissioners should work collaboratively with their member municipality to identify current and potential trainers.

Next Steps:

All Commissioners:

- Ask your municipality for updates on their trainers and if they need training.
- Attend the Ethics Summit from 8-11:30 a.m. Oct. 27 and assist with set-up, crowd interaction and clean-up. Please share the flyer with your community once available and encourage your community to attend!
- Follow and share the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission Facebook page (www.facebook.com/sharedethics)
- Ensure your community pays their 2027 dues by the Dec. 2, 2026, meeting.
- Update Mary Freda-Flores with any trainee updates via email at m.freda180@gmail.com.

All Trainers:

- Attend at least one "Train the Trainer" session to familiarize yourself with the program.

Cal:

- Approach East Chicago Schools superintendent about finding a commissioner.

Cecile:

- Verify current trainers/contact information for member municipalities by connecting with current contacts.



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- Determine if new trainers are needed.
- Find training co-chair.

Courtney:

- Send the group a list of trainers for each community, along with talking points and documents from the meeting that were not accessible in the PowerPoint.

Janice:

- Change JBOD meeting to Dec. 2, 2026.

Karen:

- Reach out to Portage Chamber of Commerce for commissioner suggestions for Portage.

Matt:

- Send contact information to Cecile at SEACtrainer@gmail.com.
- Arrange a meeting to get up to speed on training materials.

Financial Update: All dues for 2026 have been collected, totaling \$31,634.37 in revenue.

Summit Update: Judge Elizabeth Tavitas is confirmed as the keynote speaker for this year's Ethics Summit. The event is from 8-11:30 a.m. Oct. 27 at Avalon Manor.

Training Committee Update: Commissioners, please ask your municipality for updates on their trainers and if they need training.

The May 22, 2026, management training session had 116 attendees out of 130 registrants and emphasized the importance of distributing the Shared Code of Ethics and Values to all municipal government employees.

Communications Committee Update: Mary Freda-Flores has been hired to handle communications tasks previously managed by Julie McElmurry, including social media, email lists, ethics pledge tracking and meeting minutes at a cost of \$3,000 annually.



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Membership Update: St. John and Valparaiso have new commissioners.

St. John: Matthew Rohr

Valparaiso: Brian Nosbusch

Cal is working on finding a new commissioner for East Chicago.

Next meetings and adjournment: Adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

SEAC Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026

JBOD Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026

SEAC Upcoming Events

Ethics Summit: 8-11:30 a.m. Oct. 27, 2026