



Board Meeting Draft Minutes

Monday, September 14, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Online via Zoom

VOTING EXCELLENCE BUILDING ACCOUNTABILITY

Attendance

Officers		
ROLE	NAME	STATUS
President	Wanda Taylor	Present
1st Vice President	Rick Herrington	Present
2nd Vice President	Paul Kitchen	Present
Treasurer	Dominick Schirripa	Present
Secretary	Donna Dagner	Present
Immediate Past President	John Nunnally	Present

Ad Hoc Committees		
ROLE	NAME	STATUS
Extra Large Districts	Kate Hanley	Present
Membership	JoAnne Speiden	Present
Nomination	John Nunnally	Present

District Directors		
DISTRICT	NAME	STATUS
North Central	Valerie Morris	Present
Northern	Mary Strenko	Present
Southern	Ellen Boone	Present
South Central	Patrick Washington	Present
Southwestern	Irma Mitchell	Absent
Tidewater	Mike Ziegenfuss	Absent

District Directors		
DISTRICT	NAME	STATUS
Western	Marcy Reedy	Absent

Other		
ROLE	NAME	STATUS
Programming VEBA Annual Meeting	Jane Hurst	Absent
IT/Website Vendor	Josepha Thompson	Present
Legislative Lobbyist	Luke Priddy	Present
Legislative Member	Lynette Clements	Absent
Randall Casciello	Public Relations	Present

Call to Order

VEBA President Wanda Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Wanda opening remarks included thanking VEBA & Luke Priddy for the work on revised removal policies of General Registrars & Electoral Board members. She called on our Legislative Lobbyist to share the results.

Policy on Removal Procedures

- The State Board reviewed draft policies (2026-003 and 2026-004) tied to recent legislation on removal of electoral board members and registrars; board members submitted a near-rewrite using the original language and structure to resolve conflicts.
- Key change: the member or electoral board requesting removal will present the petition rather than obligating the secretary to present, avoiding conflict when the secretary might dissent.
- The appeals process wording was clarified and most suggestions were accepted; remaining concerns were primarily about structure, timelines, and typographical errors which were reported back for correction.
- The request to explicitly allow local boards to consult attorneys and use closed sessions before decisions was not added to the local version, though it was noted local boards likely are not prohibited from doing so and differences stem from variable local access to counsel.
- Deliverable: copies of the requested revisions and a follow-up letter will be made available for distribution.

- The minutes from the meeting August 10, 2026, meeting were approved as presented.

Report from Treasurer

- Current assets reported were approximately \$138,000 with \$42,000 in checking. The Money Marketing Account balance is approximately \$96,000 with interest income of about \$250 to \$260 monthly, improving over prior zero-interest checking yields.
- Recent expenses were mostly district meeting costs; several reimbursements and travel expenses have not yet cleared and require receipts from individuals and vendors.
- Preliminary, rough budget assumptions for fiscal 2028 were presented with a default 10% contingency applied to many line items except fixed contracts; no budget approval was requested tonight, only input from board members.
- Key policy question for membership financing: whether to rely on annual meeting surplus to subsidize operating costs or to set dues to cover annual operating expenses; treasurer presented scenario tools and encouraged director feedback on anticipated expense changes or new program needs.
- Treasurer noted dues-notice rules (one-year notice before dues increase) and signaled a likely dues adjustment for 2028; 2027 dues remain unchanged.

Unfinished Business - none

New Business

Public Relations & Newsletter Initiative

- PR presented a plan to produce an inaugural newsletter (VEBANews.org, Volume 1 Number 1) with sections such as a president's note, district news, topical updates, and excerpts from partner organizations; a detailed layout will be returned to the October meeting for approval.
- Randall Casciello (new PR committee member) was approved and will help with newsletter content and writing; PR will meet to develop the format and initial copy.
- The PR team requested district meeting photos and other contributions; Wanda will coordinate collection of images and content for the newsletter and website.

District Reports

- Wanda complimented all the District Directors along with the assistance provided by Josepha Thompson, IT/Website Vendor.
- District Directors present reported successful, smaller-scale meetings with strong local participation, valuable speakers (notably Jamie Finney and Steve Koski), and positive attendee feedback.

Big 10 Districts

Kate Hanley reported that absentee ballots for voters on the permanent absentee list had already been mailed. Mary Strenko noted that a recent Supreme Court ruling, decided 7–2, preserved the status quo for USPS ballot handling and did not immediately affect current absentee or mail-in voting procedures.

Reports from Committees

Annual Meeting & Training

- The program committee is planning two EB101 training sessions (February, proposed 6th and 13th) located to minimize travel (Floyd and Bedford under consideration) to accommodate new board members needing training.
- Discussion covered whether to break out a separate training budget line within annual meeting expenses to facilitate reimbursement requests (e.g., from ELECT); treasurer cautioned that historical cost allocation is not granular and prorating many shared items would be complex.
- The financial impact of any ELECT contribution to training must be known to set annual meeting registration pricing and the larger question of whether the annual meeting should be self-sustaining was raised for further thought.
- A planning committee for the annual meeting was nominated (Jane Hurst, Donna Dagner, Jody, John Nunnally, plus the chair) and approved to move forward with logistics and programming.

Awards and Honor

Donna Dagner expressed how difficult it has been gathering the names, birthdate months and mailing addresses from the District Directors to send out birthday post cards to all Electoral Board members. She has in turn reached out to the General Registrar for this information,

Registrars raised privacy/process concerns about sharing member mailing data and may require explicit permission from members before registrar release it. The board acknowledged the data-sensitivity issue and that some registrars will require explicit consent before providing member contact details, which may delay the birthday-card effort.

Legislative

Paul Kitchen shared that Lynette is still working on the packets of talking points for distribution. Luke shared that legislative preparations are time-sensitive: policy ideas and bill requests should be ready as early as possible given strict bill limit. Paul reminded us that the committee will focus on defensive monitoring and responding to bills rather than expecting many novel enactments next session.

The legislative committee will restart its idea-gathering form to build a bank of potential positions and will coordinate outreach between members and the committee to keep a consolidated record of communications with legislators. He requested those that speak with their local representatives to copy and or share this information with the Legislative Committee. Wanda mentioned that we may get recommendations from our Work Groups.

Membership – no report

Final Remarks/ Adjournment

Madame President Wanda Taylor thanked attendees for their work and for joining the call.

For the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 7:52.

Next Meeting Date and Time

October 12. 2026 7:00 PM

Respectfully,

Donna J. Dagner

Donna J Dagner,
VEBA Secretary