

# NDIA Iowa-Illinois Chapter

*Chapter Established in 1936*

**Tuesday, July 8th, 2025**

## **NDIA Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 CST on Tuesday, July 8th, 2025 by Natalie Linville-Mass

### **Attendees**

<b>Board Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
President	Natalie Linville-Mass	x
Executive Vice President	Brittney Benson	
Treasurer	Todd Prouty	x
Secretary	Ernie Cychosz	x
Programs	Dhiraj Raghwani	x
Symposium	Logan Brincks	x
Scholarships	Ryan L Bunge	
Awards	Brittney Benson	x
Membership	Flint Znamenacek	
Nominations	George Rivard	
Donations	Mike Lux	
National Policy Group	Brittany Benson	x
STEM Chair	Mike Lux	
Director	Timothy Bower	
Director	Joy Fleming	
Director	Celia M. Hadden	
	Joshua Bruce	x
	Nicholas Santana	x
	Jayson Couch	
	Kevin Stevens	x

### **1. Welcome New Board Members!!**

- a. Kevin Stevens, Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (JMTC)

### **2. Prior Meeting Minutes (Ernie):**

- a. May Board Minutes approved.

### **3. Treasurer's Report (Todd):**

- a. Quarterly Report due July 15<sup>th</sup> and will be sent out for board approval following completion.
- b. Treasurer's Report approved.
- c. Transition to National – next steps
- d. QC Chamber Renewal. Should we join the Hispanic Chamber?

### **4. Symposium (Logan)**

# **NDIA Iowa-Illinois Chapter**

- a. Congratulations on a successful Symposium!!
- b. Lessons learned: Balance large and small business focus; attendees enjoyed the government speakers; upgrade visuals and graphics; possibly invite more relevant speakers from more areas under our chapter.
- c. Symposium next year expected to be in May; hopeful that planning can begin in August.
  - i. We will not have Helen's Help. We will need to find and develop our own system for reservations.
- d. Next Committee Meeting TBD.
- e. Logan will stay on as symposium chair for next year.

## **5. Program Committee (Dhiraj):**

- a. The Lunch and Learn with Edie Bailly focused on CMMC is approved. Natalie and Nick to assist in planning this and schedule a date and time (November?); Todd to send over an invoice; Diraj to create the registration link.
- b. Crystal Group Fall Tour Date: October 23rd at 3pm with dinner afterwards. Will begin working on the flyer and the save the date, and identifying a restaurant for dinner. Since this event requires travel, the earlier we publish the better.
- c. Board approved expanding the NDIA scholarships to those currently serving on the USS Iowa.
- d. Need committee members to help coordinate the events.

## **6. Scholarship Committee (Ryan):**

- a. All Scholarship Recipients made it to the Ceremony at the Iron Tee.
- b. Media Link Staff was able to get pictures of the group and used these pictures for social media posts.
- c. Media Link Staff is pulling together the webpage together now and will have this up within the next two weeks.
- d. Todd to send the remaining checks to the Scholarship Winners' Colleges by August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- e. Need more judges for applications next year; anything that can be done to promote these scholarships more would be great.
- f. Board approved moving the scholarship opening date to November and deciding in February. This will help us notify students earlier, allowing for us and them to be recognized by their high schools and give the students more time to plan to come to the award ceremony.

## **7. STEM/Donations Committee (Mike/Celia):**

- a. Celia and Brittney did get \$500 check presentations at the following organizations:

# **NDIA Iowa-Illinois Chapter**

- i. Putnam Museum and Science Center (memo: for Engineering Kids Camp )
- ii. STEMTASTIC (Glenview Activity Fund)
- iii. 3. Flourish & Bots Robotic Teams
- iv. 4. Rock Island Center for Math & Science
- b. When budgets are determined for 2026, let's look at where we can add donations. Dhiraj has talked about a STEM group in Cedar Rapids who is doing great things for kids in this region. Dhiraj will look into a veteran suicide prevention service in Cedar Rapids as well.
- c. We also donated to the Veterans Experience Action Center and promoted their July event on Social media a few times. So, we also need to keep an eye out for other local Veteran focused organizations. NDIA National gave examples in Model Chapter Application of the following organizations like STEM, local ROTC military programs, Wounded Warriors, USO, Fisher House, etc.
- d. Celia is stepping down from the board this year. This will be an open position this Fall. Please let us know if this is a position you'd like to contribute too next year.

## **8. AWARDS Program Committee (Brittney):**

- a. Model Chapter/Chapter of excellence (<https://www.ndia.org/chapters/about-ndia-chapters/model-chapter-chapter-of-excellence>) Applications due mid-August.
- b. Lifetime Achievement Award nominations

## **9. Chapter Outreach (Nick)**

- a. Meeting with Tammy Duckworth's office about working with us to reach the arsenal and other constituents.
- b. Meeting is set-up with Joni Ernst's office on July 22<sup>nd</sup> about opportunities to work with us.
- c. To reach out to Eric Sorenson and Mariannette Miller-Meeks' offices.
- d. Greg Johnson and Mike Halpin's offices would like to meet as well.
- e. More updates on QC Chamber and Jesse at the Hispanic Chamber Outreach efforts hopefully to come.
- f. Met with public affairs officers for Arsenal Island, and they like the idea of combining the APBI with the symposium and would like us to let them know symposium plans earlier.
- g. Met with Troy from the Army Corp small business program on possibly working with them on an industry day toward the end of September.
- h. Visit with John Mueller and Lorenzo at Corporate NDIA

## **10. Promotion (Natalie):**

# NDIA Iowa-Illinois Chapter

- a. Website: Continue to make updates to the Symposium and other updates as needed.
- b. Facebook/LinkedIn: We're running a lot of posts right now. One for each Scholarship Recipient, one for each STEM Donation we've been giving out, one for each of our new board members, as well as promoting upcoming events locally and through NDIA National.
- c. Eblast: We sent out 7 eblasts in May, one right after the Symposium and are ready to send out our Quarterly eblast this week.
- d. OPM (Online Presence Management): Once a Quarter

## 11. Membership (Flint):

- a. Update on members (We now have 374 members?? We were at 620 with the last report.) Please talk with Zoila to find out if some of our corporate members moved to other chapters.
- b. See email on 7/1 from Zoila on Corporate members we need to reach out to.
- c. It was brought up that this would be a great opportunity to reach out to those who are not members, but went to the Symposium and urge them to join. Flint to hopefully work with Brittney and Helen Amend on making this happen within the next month.

## 12. Nominating Committee (George):

- a. George will not be available this month due to a family emergency.
- b. George, thank you for inviting Kevin Stevens to our Board of Directors.
- c. We do have a new Board Nomination we need to vote on accepting tonight;

*Karl Reuter retired from the Army about 5 years ago and moved my family here at the beginning of the COVID to work for KBR as a planner/augmentee to Army Sustainment Command focused on supporting NORTHCOM (and EUCOM to a degree). Last year I transitioned to more of an expanded role as a liaison/account manager vice being a planner. Josh had reached out to Karl at the APBI about being on the board and this seems like something that makes sense for him, given how he has participated in community engagements on behalf of my company frequently.*

*Please see the attached resume for further information.*

- d. Board voted to bring Karl onto the board.
- e. Karl has been voted onto the board, bringing our board up to 19 board members. However, it looks like we're going to lose 5 board members at the end of this year. So, please reach out to George the end of August if you have any recommendations for one of these board vacancies

# **NDIA** Iowa-Illinois Chapter

- f. We do need a committee for this position on the board. If you would like to help with nominating board members, please reach out to George at grivard22@gmail.com.
- g. Please note at least one month prior to elections, Helen and Callie need to be notified of upcoming elections. We will also need to notify Helen and Callie as soon as new board members are voted into the group.

## **13. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS/INFO:**

- a. Amanda Siegner from the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society would like us to be a sponsor of the 250th Rock Island Arsenal Army Ball.
- b. Next meeting: Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 9th at 5pm (Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each odd month)

**Meeting concluded at 6:42 CST.**