



Chapter Established in 1936

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

NDIA Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:00 CST on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 by Brittney Bensen

Attendees

Board Position	Name	Present
President	Brittney Bensen	X
Executive Vice President	Flint Znamenacek	X
Treasurer	Kevin Stevens	X
Secretary	Joshua Bruce	X
Program Director	Nick Santana	
Symposium Lead	Logan Brincks	X
Scholarships	Karl Reuter	X
Awards	Todd Prouty	X
Membership	Todd Prouty	X
Nominations	Nick Santana	
Donations	Khiraaj Raghwani	
National Policy Group		
STEM Chair	Khiraaj Raghwani	
Director	Timothy Bower	
Director	Joy Fleming	
Director	Mark Westrom	
Director	Celia M. Hadden	
Director	Jessica Horaney	X
Director	Jayson Couch	

1. Welcome (Brittney)

- Brittney Benson formally introduced herself as the new President, taking over from Natalie Linville-Mass. She shared her excitement for the opportunity and her commitment to leading the chapter forward.
- Brittney also highlighted her recent attendance at the NDIA National Leadership Meeting in Washington, DC, where the chapter was honored with the Chapter of Excellence Award. She described the experience of sitting in on the National Board meeting, connecting with other chapter leaders, and gaining valuable insights into national-level priorities and best practices

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2. NDIA Leadership Meeting Overview (Brittney)

- Brittney Benson welcomed board members, noting the transition of board positions and expressing appreciation for everyone's flexibility during this period.
- Brittney Benson is assuming the role of President, succeeding Natalie Linville-Mass.
- The meeting agenda was reviewed, with a focus on efficiency and completion within one hour.

3. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

- The November 2025 Board Minutes were reviewed.
- Motion to approve was made by Natalie Linville-Mass, seconded by multiple members, and unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's Report (Kevin Stevens & Todd Prouty)

- Todd Prouty presented the quarterly financial report, including balances for savings and checking accounts, transition to the national account, and a minor mischarge to be resolved.
- The NDIA Model Chapter Award (\$1,000) was credited to the account.
- Outstanding items included a lost invoice from Vibrant and a \$5.32 Arby's mischarge.
- The board discussed closing out the Rock Island Arsenal account and transferring funds to the national office; \$36.92 in dividends received from RIA.
- PNC national account balance at \$95,578.
- The Treasurer's report was motioned for approval by Logan Brincks, seconded by Kevin Stevens, and unanimously approved.

5. Board Elections & Transition

- This meeting marked a significant transition for the NDIA Iowa-Illinois Chapter Board, with several members moving into new leadership roles for the 2026–2027 term. The transition was discussed openly, with emphasis on continuity, onboarding, and the importance of leveraging experience from outgoing officers.
- Outgoing officers, such as Todd Prouty (Treasurer), offered ongoing support to incoming officers (Kevin Stevens), ensuring a smooth handover of responsibilities and sharing best practices for financial management.
- The board discussed the importance of updating account signatories and ensuring all necessary paperwork was completed for the transition.
- Outgoing board members were thanked for their service, and the board recognized the contributions of George Rivard, especially in nominating a strong slate of officers.
- Detailed table of board positions was reviewed:
 - **President:** Natalie Linville-Mass → Brittney Benson
 - **Vice President:** Brittney Benson → Flint Znamenacek
 - **Treasurer:** Todd Prouty → Kevin Stevens
 - **Secretary:** Ernie Cychosz → Joshua Bruce
 - **Membership Chair:** Flint Znamenacek → Todd Prouty
 - **Symposium Chair:** Logan Brincks (continuing)

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- **Programs Chair:** Dhiraj Raghvani → Nick Santana
- **Publicity Chair:** Natalie Linville-Mass (continuing)
- **Scholarship Chair:** Ryan Bunge → Karl Reuter
- **STEM/Donation Chair:** Celia Hadden → Dhiraj Raghvani
- **Nominating Chair:** George Rivard → Nick Santana
- **National Policy Chair:** Brittney Benson (continuing)
- **Awards Chair:** Brittney Benson → Todd Prouty

6. Symposium Planning (Logan)

- Dates confirmed: June 2-3, 2026, at Vibrant, Heritage Hall, and the golf course.
- The chapter purchased GivePulse software to manage event logistics, ticket sales, and registration. The platform is now live, and ticket sales have begun. Natalie Linville-Mass will receive the link for ticketing and further coordination.
- While GivePulse is being adopted for event management, the scholarship application process will remain PDF/email-based for this year due to a learning curve with the new system. The board plans to fully transition to digital forms in the future.
- Key sponsors and speakers are being sought; hotel reservations are underway.
- Efforts are underway to secure key sponsors and high-profile speakers. Nick Santana has developed an Excel file to track contacts and outreach efforts.
- Coordination with JMTC and ACC for event walkthroughs and speaker invitations is ongoing.
- Outreach to Riata and other organizations continues, with Shawn Cramer identified as a potential liaison.

7. Program Committee (Nick)

- Nick Santana is developing a draft calendar of events, with ideas for partnerships and new activities to boost membership and revenue.

8. Scholarship Committee (Karl)

- Karl Reuter reported coordination with Logan Brincks and Natalie Linville-Mass on scholarship duties.
- Scholarship application process will remain digital/PDF for this year, with plans to transition to GivePulse in the future.
- Website and social media updates are needed to promote scholarships.

10. Awards Program Committee (Todd)

- Brittney Benson and Todd Prouty discussed the need to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Jan Matsumoto, with plans to mail the award if necessary.
 - Jan was unable to attend both the symposium and the October Crystal Group event, so the board is considering mailing the award to ensure timely recognition.
 - The importance of acknowledging Jan's contributions was emphasized, and the board agreed to find a suitable way to present the award, even if in absentia.

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- The chapter was recognized with the NDIA Chapter of Excellence Award at the national leadership meeting in Washington, DC. This honor included a \$1,000 grant to the chapter, which was credited to the account and acknowledged as a significant achievement for the board.
- There was consensus on the importance of timely and public recognition for awardees, whether in person or via mail, and leveraging chapter communications (website, e-blasts, social media) to highlight award recipients.

11. Chapter Outreach (Nick)

- Short-term and long-term goals were discussed, with outreach efforts to the QC Chamber, RIADA, Hispanic Chamber, and Arsenal Island ongoing.
- The chapter vision plan was approved, and further meetings will be set to discuss long-term objectives.

12. Promotion (Natalie)

- Natalie Linville-Mass will continue website updates, e-blasts, and social media posts.
- Quarterly e-blasts and regular Facebook/LinkedIn updates are planned.

13. Membership (Flint/Todd)

- Membership numbers reported: 635 current members, down from 657.
- Discussion on adding Shawn Cramer (RIADA) to the board and options for strategic partnership/membership.
- Action item: Consult national office for membership options.

14. Nominating Committee (George/Nick)

- George Rivard was thanked for nominating a strong board.
- The board expressed support for George Rivard and family during health challenges.

15. New/Other Business

- Transition to Teams for automated minutes and transcription.
- Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th, 5:00 PM CST.
- Meetings will continue on the second Tuesday of each odd month.

Meeting concluded at 6:09 CST.