

NDIA Iowa-Illinois Chapter

Chapter Established in 1936

Tuesday, July 14th, 2026

NDIA Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:00 CST on Tuesday, July 14th, 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	X
Symposium Lead	Logan Brincks	X
Scholarships	Karl Reuter	X
Awards	Todd Prouty	X
Membership	Todd Prouty	X
Publicity Chair	Natalie Linville-Mass	X
Nominations	Nick Santana	X
Donations	Shaun Elhard	
National Policy Group	Brittney Benson	X
STEM Chair	Shaun Elhard	
Director	Timothy Bower	
Director	Joy Fleming	
Director	George Rivard	X
Director	Mark Westrom	
Director	Celia M. Hadden	
Director	Jessica Horaney	X
Director	Jayson Couch	

1. Welcome

Brittney Benson called the meeting to order and noted that meeting materials and the Treasurer's Report had been distributed prior to the meeting. Discussion also occurred regarding maintaining an ongoing action-item tracker to improve accountability and follow-through between meetings. Board members supported continuing the action report as a meeting management tool.

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2. Prior Meeting Minutes (May 2026)

The May 2026 Board Meeting Minutes were distributed prior to the meeting.

- **Motion:** George Rivard to approve May 2026 Meeting Minutes
- **Seconded by:** Flint Z
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously

3. Treasurer's Report (Kevin Stevens)

Kevin Stevens presented the financial report covering activity since the May board meeting.

Financial Summary

- Beginning balance: approximately **\$106,000**
- Income received during the reporting period: **\$22,535**
- Expenses/outlays: approximately **\$31,700**
- Current PNC account balance: approximately **\$97,493**
- Legacy RIA account remains open with a nominal balance pending final closure.

Key Discussion Items

- Additional bank access is being pursued through NDIA National to improve transaction visibility and reconciliation capability.
- Several symposium-related invoices were still being reconciled, including major payments to the Vibrant Arena facility.
- Scholarship disbursements appear to have cleared up as expected.
- Board members discussed refining documentation packages submitted to NDIA National to improve payment processing efficiency.
- Treasurer will provide an updated report with additional transaction details and symposium expense reconciliation.

Action Items

- Kevin Stevens verify pending Vibrant Arena payments with NDIA National.
- Update financial report with greater transaction detail and symposium reconciliation.
- Complete Iowa Science Bowl payment processing.

Vote

Motion: George Rivard

Second: Jessica Horaney

Treasurer's Report approved unanimously.

4. Symposium Update (Logan Brincks)

Logan Brincks provided a review of the 2026 Symposium and initial planning efforts for 2027.

2026 Symposium Review

- Post-symposium review meeting conducted.
- Survey results were overwhelmingly positive.
- Most common attendee criticism was room temperature conditions.
- Board discussed a desire for increased government participation in future events.

2027 Symposium Planning

- Planning efforts will begin earlier than previous years.
- Committee intends to establish the 2027 symposium date sooner to avoid scheduling delays.
- Committee meetings expected to resume within the next 30-60 days.
- Government participation and direct involvement from installation representatives will be prioritized.

Financial Performance

Preliminary calculations indicate approximately **\$27,816.84** in net symposium revenue after accounting for known expenses, although final reconciliation is still pending. Board members agreed the event generated sufficient revenue to support scholarships, STEM initiatives, and reserve targets.

Strategic Discussion

The board discussed:

- Greater involvement by government organizations in symposium planning.
- Re-engaging Arsenal support organizations.
- Earlier outreach to ASC leadership.
- Potential participation from congressional offices and military leadership.
- Opportunities to coordinate with AUSA and additional regional defense organizations.

Action Items

- Brittney Benson to revise and distribute government engagement letter to ASC leadership.
- Explore formation of a government-industry advisory group for future symposium planning.
- Begin 2027 planning process earlier in the year.

5. Program Committee (Nicholas Santana)

Nicholas Santana outlined the committee's direction toward regular educational programming.

Planned Activities

- Monthly virtual "Lunch and Learn" webinars.

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- Small business engagement sessions.
- Future in-person networking and outreach events.

Updates

- Iowa National Guard leadership expressed strong interest in partnering with NDIA.
- Discussions are underway regarding opportunities for National Guard participation in outreach events throughout Iowa.
- Scott Air Force Base's regional aerospace organization invited NDIA participation in an August Aerospace Summit.
- Nicholas Santana will represent NDIA at the event and promote chapter activities and membership opportunities.

Challenges

- Many government outreach offices are currently understaffed and requesting 4-6 weeks advance notice for engagements.
- Program development has been delayed by competing work commitments but remains a priority.

6. Scholarship Committee (Karl Reuter)

Karl Reuter reported that:

- Scholarship recipients continue to be highlighted through NDIA social media channels.
- Posts are scheduled through the end of August.
- Scholarship checks appear to have been processed successfully.
- No issues or complaints have been received from recipients or families.
- Planning will begin again for the next scholarship cycle later this year.

Action Items

- Continue scholarship awardee promotion campaign through August.
- Begin preparations for the 2027 scholarship cycle.

7. STEM / Donations Committee (Shaun Elhard)

Since Shaun Creamer was unavailable, Brittney Benson provided updates.

Discussion

- STEM donation opportunities will increase as schools resume classes in the fall.
- Committee plans to identify and present donation opportunities to the board for review and approval.

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Action Item

- Coordinate with Shaun Creamer to identify fall STEM funding opportunities.

8. Awards Program Committee (Todd Prouty)

Todd Prouty provided updates on awards activities.

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Board discussed formal recognition for Jan Masamoto.
- Consensus was reached to schedule an informal recognition luncheon or dinner this fall.
- A small gathering with current and former board members was preferred over a larger event.

Sridhar Award

- Nomination package for Fontaine Consulting remains in development.

Chapter Awards

- NDIA Model Chapter and Chapter of Excellence application cycle opened.
- Deadline for submission: September 8, 2026.

Action Items

- Schedule meeting between Todd Prouty and Brittney Benson to complete award applications.
- Coordinate presentation plans for Jan Matsumoto.

9. Chapter Outreach (Nicholas Santana)

Nicholas Santana discussed several outreach developments.

RIADA

- Shaun Creamer has departed RIADA.
- A new executive director has not yet been confirmed.
- Additional direct engagement with Arsenal leadership will become more important.

Congressional Outreach

- Congressman Eric Sorensen's office expressed interest in future symposium participation.
- Congressional offices from both Iowa and Illinois continue engaging with chapter leadership.
- NDIA will seek stronger relationships with incoming Senate and congressional staff teams.

Military Outreach

- Board discussed meeting with Arsenal leadership, including engagement through Colonel Parker and other senior leaders.
- Increased government collaboration remains a strategic priority.

10. Promotion (Natalie)

Natalie Linville-Mass reported:

- Symposium follow-up communications have been distributed.
- Scholarship recipient social media campaigns are active.
- Quarterly e-blast has been released.
- Future event promotion requires a minimum six-week lead time to ensure adequate attendance and marketing effectiveness.

11. Membership (Flint Z / Todd Prouty)

Flint Z reported:

- Current membership: **642**
- Net decrease of approximately four members since the previous report.
- Approximately seventy new memberships joined since June 1, likely due in part to symposium activity.
- Membership increases at the national level may contribute to slower growth.

12. Nominating Committee

Nicholas Santana discussed potential board candidates.

Potential Candidates

- Kyle Anderson is evaluating future board participation after August commitments conclude.
- Jody Essex expressed interest in greater chapter involvement.
- Additional discussions may occur with other Iowa and Illinois industry representatives.
- The board discussed ensuring broad and balanced representation across the chapter's geographic footprint.

Additional Prospect

- Board discussed potential involvement of Bob Sinclair, a former Corps of Engineers leader and regional waterways advocate.
- Follow-up outreach will occur.

13. New / Other Business

No additional business was brought forward.

Next Meeting

September 8, 2026

5:00 PM (Teams)

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Adjournment

Motion: George Rivard

Second: Brittney Benson

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:11 PM.

New / Other Business

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 8 at 5 PM.

Action Items

- Kevin Stevens: Obtain ACH permissions, reconcile payables, verify Vibrant Arena invoices, send updated report.
- Brittney Benson: Shorten ASC outreach email, send by week's end; coordinate symposium engagement; Model Chapter work.
- Karl Reuter: Initiate ASC leadership engagement via COL Parker.
- Logan Brincks: Provide GivePulse export to Treasurer.
- Todd Prouty: Coordinate Lifetime Achievement Award dinner; Sridhar Award nomination; Model Chapter submission.
- Natalie: Continue scholarship posts and event promotion.
- Nick Santana: Schedule Arsenal leadership meetings; maintain congressional outreach.