

**Minutes
NAAE Board of Directors
Meeting
March 30, 2026**

The NAAE Board of Directors conducted a board of directors meeting virtually on March 30, 2026. Board members in attendance included: Cameron Dale (OK), President; Kyle Stapleton (ID), President-Elect; Sharon Metzger (AZ), Region I Vice President; Lauren Emerson (LA), Region II Vice President; Paul Aarsvold (MN), Region III Vice President; John Hammond (KY), Region IV Vice President; Nelson McCracken (GA), Region V Vice President; Darla Romberger (PA), Region VI Vice President; Bill Newsom (TN), Past President; and Alissa Smith (KY), NAAE Chief Executive Officer.

The minutes of the meeting are as follows:

1. **Call to Order** –President Cameron Dale called the board meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Eastern time on Monday, March 30, 2026.
2. **Review and Approve Agenda** – Bill Newsom moved, Kyle Stapleton seconded, to approve the agenda with flexibility. Motion carried.
3. **Review and Approve Minutes** – Kyle Stapleton moved, Paul Aarsvold seconded, to approve the minutes from the February 6-7, 2026 Board meeting. Motion carried.
4. **CEO Report** – Alissa Smith presented the CEO report of what has been occurring with staff and in the office. Alissa reported the Audit will be April 20-21 and we will share out the report for the Board and Financial Review committee.
5. **Membership Report** – Alissa Smith shared the updated NAAE Membership numbers and discussed strategy moving forward regarding communication to states about the membership dues increase.
6. **NAAE Strategic Planning Committee Meeting** – Cameron Dale called the Board Strategic Planning Committee to order at 6:56 pm Eastern time. Alissa discussed the first draft of the strategic plan and the components of each area of focus. The Board discussed the timing of the strategic plan and outcomes. Nelson McCracken moved, Paul Aarsvold seconded, to align our NAAE Strategic Plan to the years of 2027-2029. Motion carried. At our NAAE Board meeting in April, Alissa will present the plan with current programming alignment and expanded opportunities. Kyle Stapleton moved, Sharon Metzger seconded, to adjourn the board committee meeting. Committee chair, Cameron Dale, adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm Eastern time.
7. **NAAE Position Discussion** – Alissa Smith shared the need for additional NAAE staff at the February meeting and updated the Board on the NAAE Position. Alissa shared the

position will be funded with current financial resources that had been allocated in the past to contractors' stipends as well as a further reduction in a current part time staff person's time and salary. The Board discussed the need for staffing to allow time for current staff to focus on building partnerships with new companies. Paul Aarsvold moved, John Hammond seconded, to approve the hiring of a NAAE Program Manager. Motion carried with a vote of 7 in approval and 1 in opposition.

8. **NAAE Updated Committee Timeline** – Alissa shared an updated NAAE Committee timeline and asked Board members to review for discussion at our April 30, 2026 Board meeting.
9. **Regional Meetings Update** – Darla Romberger shared about the Region VI Conference that recently occurred in Maryland. She also shared the dates for 2027 Region VI Conference have been set and will be April 9-11, 2027, in Delaware. Sharon Metzger shared an updated about the upcoming Region I conference that will occur in April. Nelson McCracken shared information regarding his upcoming Region V conference.
10. **New/Old Business** – no new or old business was discussed.
11. **Adjournment** – With no further business to be transacted at this time, Bill Newsom moved, John Hammond seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. Eastern time.