



Board Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2025 5:00 PM

Duluth Heights Lodge, Theater Room

Present: Roger Amborn, Susan Halvorson, Cindy Hnatek, Lydia Jordahl, Rick Liljegren, Al Makynen, Skip Van Kessel

Absent: Mary Jackson, Eric Kaiser, Cindy Richey

1. September 2025 minutes were approved, motion by Roger, second by Rick, and approval from all members
2. Treasurer report (AI):
 - a. One \$10,000 CD just renewed for one yr with auto renewal in 12 months. Second \$10,000 CD up for renewal in December. It was noted that the penalty for early CD termination would be amount of interest from one quarter. Motion to auto renew second CD for 6 months at approximately 3.5% by Rick, second by Cindy H with approval from all members.
 - b. AI reviewed Income and Expense statements: Total revenues, Actual YTD are \$19,697; Total expenses Actual YTD are \$16,859. Net income \$1,651, including a \$1,000 donation check presented in person prior to the meeting by Pier B.
 - c. Hope remains that Bayshore will provide sponsor support for 2025.
 - d. 2026 Budget prep: Roger, Rick, Al and Mary will comprise the Finance Committee and will plan to meet in the next few weeks to prepare the **2026 budget to be presented at the January 2026 meeting.**
3. Board Elections/Officers
 - a. It was noted that Board/Officer elections are usually done during the 4th quarter. It was noted that Board members may have a total of 10 2-year terms.
 - b. Names and skills of potential board members were discussed. Roger will contact several potential board members.
 - c. **It was decided to defer Board/Officer Elections until the January 15, 2026 Board Meeting.**
4. Sponsorships/fund raising
 - a. Fund raising plan, timing: Fundraising letters using the template developed for 2025 will be sent to all legitimate facilities in the early spring as was done in 2025. The list of facilities will be updated from the state licensing directories as needed.
 - b. New board member with corporate emphasis: the need for a new board member to focus on corporate fundraising, working through the winter was discussed. The pros and cons of SLRE providing that board member a stipend or awarding 5% of the corporate donations were discussed.

5. Boat

- a. Current needs: Roger needs 4 volunteers to hang zippers on Friday, 10/24 at 1:00 pm at the Proctor Fairgrounds Parking Lot. Suggestions of possible volunteers were made

6. 2025 season

- a. Final recap of 2025: No new information was presented
- b. Early planning for 2026: When asked, Roger said he was okay with the volume of work he did in 2025 and is looking forward to having a board member shoulder fund raising responsibilities.
- c. ***Trip times for 2026 were discussed. Current recommendation is to change trip times for 2026 to 1) 10 am to 12 pm, 2) 1:30 to 3:30 pm with the possibility of adding 3) 4:00 to 6:00 pm. It was suggested that captains allow for individual flexibility within these time frames, such as starting at 10:30 instead of at 10:00 am. It was agreed that further discussion was needed and will be deferred to the January 15, 2026 board meeting***

7. Volunteers

- a. Report on volunteer event: Many board members heard very positive comments about the 2025 Volunteer dinner held 10/2/2025 at the American Legion. The venue, caterer and food received high praise and it was said to be a fun event for all. Roger received a thank you for how well the cleanup after the dinner was done. It was agreed that the photo booth was a huge success and could be a tradition with some additional scenery, etc.
- b. ***Safety protocol: The protocol for handling volunteers with declining capabilities, previously provided by Eric, was reviewed, agreeing that this issue is very difficult.*** Roger described the workarounds he used during the 2025 season (i.e., letting the volunteer be an “extra” mate, putting on lifejackets, but not handling wheelchairs.) Such a volunteer could be called an “ambassador”. It was suggested that during training, it should be made clear what the physical and mental capabilities must be to be a mate or captain. At training, volunteers could be required to demonstrate their physical ability to complete necessary tasks.
- c. A special thankyou to the following volunteers for assisting this fall with taking the boat out and working on the docks with Pier B: **Jill Scharold, Dale Sundin, Phil VanKessel, Skip Van Kessel, Scott Lyons, Greg Anderson, Lola, Steve Hadley, Dick Olson, Barb Ellingson, Karen Mallory**

8. Marketing

- a. It was suggested that the current SLRE brochure that was updated and redesigned by Rick during 2025 have the dates removed so that it can be reused and become universal. Thereby, revisions could be done only as desired or needed

9. Misc.

- a. Board member job descriptions – technology, fund raising: Roger noted that the two greatest needs are in IT expertise (website and coordination of software used to facilitate scheduling and volunteers) and in fundraising.
- b. Need for November and December 2025 meetings: Throughout the meeting, it was agreed to defer several items until the January 15, 2026 board meeting. It was decided to cancel the board meetings for November and December 2025

- c. Purchase of fleece blankets for early season/cold trips: There was unanimous agreement to purchase 5-10 fleece blankets to provide warmth to riders during cooler trips. The Finance Committee should include this in their budget for 2026. The blankets need to be stored in moisture-proof plastic containers on the boat, which would also need to be purchased. Fleece blankets are normally on sale right after the holidays. Eric will monitor for best sales.
- d. Significant inventory of boat equipment, clothing, office supplies: Roger estimates that SLRE has approximately \$1,000 in inventory of items already expensed such as: cleaning supplies, shirts, hats, lifejackets, and propellers.
- e. Cindy Hnatek invited the SLRE Board to continue meeting at Duluth Heights Lodge in the Theater Room for 2026. Everyone thanked Cindy and complimented her on her warm hospitality.
- f. Bringing the SLRE website up to date: Roger asked that Mary, Rick, and Julia work together to change dates and any non-current information be brought up to date on the website. This includes adding the 2025 minutes and changing the 2024 and 2025 dates to 2026.

SLRE Board Meetings for November and December are cancelled.

Next SLRE Board Meeting: Thursday, January 15, 2026 at Duluth Heights Lodge

Submitted by Susan Halvorson in the absence of Mary Jackson, Secretary