

## Board Meeting - Regular (Thursday, March 5, 2026)

NIU Naperville Conference Center, Naperville, IL

### Board Meeting Opening Items

**Call to Order** | The meeting was called to order by President Brophy at 11:09 a.m.

Present | Officers: Edward J. Brophy, President; Seth Chapman, President Elect; Alicia M. Cieszykowski, Treasurer; Tamara L. Mitchell, Immediate Past President; 2023-2026 Directors: Anton Inglese, Angela Smith, Frank Williams; 2024-2027 Directors: John N. Benedetti, Cindy J. Dykas, Jennifer A. Porter; 2025-2028 Directors: Katie A. Hannigan, Ray C. Toliver Jr., Mike Vargas; Liaisons: SAAC Chair, Byron Given; Legislative Liaison: Emily J. Warnecke; Illinois ASBO: Kristopher P. Monn, Executive Director/CEO; Carla D. Paschal, Asst. Executive Director of Finance & Operations/CFO; Julie A. Warner, Sr. Administrative Director for Board Relations; Myke Van De Voort, Director of Marketing; Jennifer Corbin, Sr. Manager of Professional Development; Oonagh Barrow, Meetings & Professional Development Manager; Absent | Liaisons: SAAC Vice Chair, Cassidy Tarpey; NIU: Raoul J. Gravel

**Appointment of a "Devil's Advocate"** | Director Hannigan was appointed as the "Devil's Advocate" for the meeting.

**Ask the Board** | No items received.

### Consent Agenda Items

The "Approval of Recommended SAAC Members from SAAC Nominating Committee" agenda item was pulled off the Consent Agenda and move to the Closed Session for discussion.

**Motion for Consent Agenda Items** | *A motion was made by Director Smith and seconded by Director Benedetti to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: 1) 11/20/2025 Board Meeting Minutes, 2) 1/2026 Financials; 3) Second Reading: Policy Series 3000; 4) Agreement for Collaboration Between Illinois ASBO and the Illinois School Nutrition Association, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028, 5) Wintrust Financial as the Association's Investment Advisor and 6) New Service Associate Members as follows.*

*Bannerville, Western Springs, IL - Tom Sitkowski  
Correct Digital Displays, Sandwich, IL - Jon Bobbe  
Prasino Engineering, Bolingbrook, IL - George Karras  
GS Automation, Rockford, IL - Alexander Porter  
Mobilease Modular Space, Inc., Pedricktown, NJ - Brian McGlone  
Incident IQ, Atlanta, GA - Emily Craig  
ITV Appraisal, Chicago, IL - Patrick Collins  
OperationsHero, Cary, NC - Herb Crawford  
Demco, Milwaukee, WI - Carrie Ricchetti  
NRG, Rock Island, IL - Adam Lang  
Bentley Mills, Chicago, IL - Elizabeth Dziengeleski  
Soliant Consulting, Chicago, IL - Giulia Rabbito  
Nassco Inc., New Berlin, WI - Bailey Owens*

*All were in favor and the motion carried.*

### Reports & Information

**Non-Dues Revenue Dashboards** | A brief update was made regarding Constellation, IEC and Bespoke.

**Membership Dashboard** | Membership continues to be strong, especially during the busiest time of the year.

**Professional Development Dashboard** | 1) Leadership Day: There was a lot of energy in the room and the speaker was engaging.

**Metrics Dashboard & Executive Summary** | Metrics are holding strong and doing well with adjustments made in the fall.

**Upcoming Meetings & Events** | The listing was provided as information only to show the leadership what they were expected to attend.

### Liaison Reports

**Service Associate Advisory Committee** | SAAC Chair Given reported on the following: 1) the SAAC met on 2/5/2026; 2) SAAC Nominating Committee's recommendation of SAAC candidates--Alison Andrews, Wold Architects & Engineers and Fenil Patel, Quest Food Management Services, Inc.; 3) SAAC Mid-Year Business Meeting Webinar; 4) Maximizing Your Experience as a Service Associate to be held 3/12/2026; 5) Vice Chair speeches were given and voting to take place prior to Annual Conference; 6) SAAC is looking forward to the continuance of informal happy hours after PDC Meetings.

**Northern Illinois University** | Executive Director/CEO Monn reported on the following: 1) Advertising of the next cohort to begin in fall; 2) around four Ed.D. students will be defending; 3) it was asked whether students will have an opportunity to provide feedback.

## Information/Discussion Items

**First Reading: Policy Series 4000** | Director Smith provided a brief update of the recommended changes for the first reading of Policy Series 4000. A second reading and approval of the policy series will be made at the February Board Meeting.

**Illinois ASBO Board Nominating and Selection Committee Update** | Seven director applications were received, five candidates interviewed; two treasurer applications were received and both were interviewed. The nominating committee had representation from all regions, were invested in their task and held great discussions. The board discussed the need to start recruitment process earlier, encourage regional and PDC chairs to encourage their members, encourage colleagues to get involved in other areas prior to applying for the board and to incorporate the committee's process into policy.

It was decided that the board would discuss the nomination topic and term modifications in Closed Session.

**2026 Illinois ASBO Board Retreat** | President Elect Chapman thanked the staff for making the arrangements; changes to past retreat schedules: *Tuesday*: Dinner attendance is optional for board members; *Wednesday*: Board session will begin with lunch; *Thursday*: Recognize outgoing board and SAAC members, followed by the Board Meeting; *Friday*: End around 11 a.m. It was also noted that the College World Series begins on Friday.

**2026-2027 Board Meeting Dates** | The Board agreed to the board meeting dates as presented with the following changes:

9/9/2026 - Presidents' Gala and Board Meeting  
1/7/2027 - Interim Board Meeting (1 hour, virtual)  
1/2027 - Revisit the January Board Meeting/Leadership Day

**Annual Conference Update** | 1) Exhibit Hall is sold out; 2) Hotels with room blocks are sold out; overflow hotels still taking reservations; 3) walkway to Peoria Civic Center from Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette will not be open due to renovation; 4) Opening General Session: Award videos will be played as people enter the session and on monitors throughout the conference; award presentations only during the general session; President will give a "State of the Board of Directors" to include the work the board has been doing throughout the year; SAAC member introductions will be held; 5) Second General Session: Received seven IGNITE proposals; Dr. Matt Seaton will give an ISBE Update; 6) Hospitalities: Wednesday night will have a band, Coco and The Nash; Thursday there will be something at the Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette; 7) the only dinner commitment for the board is the ASBO International Guest Dinner on Tuesday night; 8) the session selection and speaker notification process was reviewed.

## Action Items

**Approval of 2025-26 Strategic Plan** | The Strategic Plan will be approved at the 4/6/2026 Interim Board Meeting.

**Approval of Recommended SAAC Members from SAAC Nominating Committee** | This item was moved to the Closed Session for further discussion.

## Legislative Update

**Legislative and ISBE Update** | 1) MCAT Budget Recommendation; Board discussion/suggestions: look at how MCATs are allocated; we have to change the ways we are allocating and the timeline of being made aware of the percentages in advance so budgets can be determined; possibly pay out percentage a year in rears; submit an estimated claim on 4/1 which would be interdependent on ISBE; 2) Driving Success Campaign; 3) HB 5417/SB 3503: Food Service Contracts; Board discussion/suggestions: It was asked to get a meeting scheduled with ISBE before the end of the month to also include Emily, Kris and some board members; Emily has a meeting with ISBE and can see if they would be willing to provide PD on the topic and then move into the group meeting (previous sentence); 4) Other Concerns: HB 4416: Unemployment; a data collection form will be included with advocacy report tomorrow to provide information for the sponsors; HB 4399: Biodiesel; SB 2914: Notice to Remedy and HB 5423P: Transfer/Capacity Report; 5) SB 3273: Solar Barriers; will receive witness slips from Emily next week; 6) HB 4375: Interfund Transfer; 7) Items for Awareness: Panic Buttons, Credit Card Approvals and FOIA Changes; 8) Requests from the Field: SB 2914 and HB 2564.

President Elect Chapman commented on the need to do transportation differently and mentioned the METS model based out of Michigan. He also mentioned seeking school districts interested in exploring the model, as well as creating a task force. Executive Director/CEO Monn recommended starting with a peer2peer post.

## Other Items

**Other Items** | There were no additional items discussed.

## Plus/Delta Meeting Evaluation

**Plus/Delta Meeting Evaluation** | *What do we need to share with the membership?* 1) Legislative Update given by Emily Warnecke; 2) Strategic Plan; 3) Incoming Leadership--Treasurer, three Directors and two SAAC Members.

## Closed Session

**FY2026 Preliminary Budget Review** | The board reviewed the FY2026 Preliminary Budget. It is scheduled for final approval at the June Board meeting.

**Approval of 2025-26 Strategic Plan** | The board deferred approval of the Strategic Plan to the April 6 Interim Board Meeting, after final meeting with Lowell Aplebaum.

**Approval of Recommended SAAC Members from SAAC Nominating Committee** | *A motion was made by Director Porter and seconded by Treasurer Cieszykowski to approve the 2026-2030 SAAC Member nominees recommended by the SAAC Nominating Committee as follows: Alison Andrews, Wold Architects and Fenil Patel, Quest Food Management. 10 ayes, 2 nays. Motion carried.*

### **Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn** | *A motion was made by Director Porter and seconded by Director Benedetti to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p.m. All were in favor and the motion carried.*

### **Signatures**

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President | Edward J. Brophy

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Executive Director/CEO | Kristopher P. Monn