

NAHT January 14, 2025 board meeting minutes

Present: Teresa, George, Tom, John, Sr. Shirley, Maggie, Heather, Lyna, Karl
Excused absences: Deanna, Kim, Stephanie, Brittany, Bernadette, Linda, Chief
Thein

The board meeting was called order at 2:30 PM. Because Teresa Harms was expected at 3 PM the meeting began with the treasurer's report and the minutes.

December Treasurer's Report

George reported that our checking account balance reflected a successful giving Tuesday campaign, exceeding our \$5,000 goal and making December the highest income month for the past year. The beginning checking account balance was \$16,242. The ending checking account balance was \$21,974. We received many contributions including a \$4000 donation from the Lohse family foundation. We did not achieve our goal of 100% board member participation, noting however that some board members are barred by ethical rules from contributing.

December Minutes

No one had any changes to the December minutes although Maggie reported that she had not received them. John said he would send her a copy in case she had any revisions. Otherwise the minutes were excepted as is.

Day on the Hill

Discussion turned to the 2025 day on the Hill event. John reported that he had spoken with Eric Baker, the governors executive scheduler, at 8:15 this morning. Eric confirmed that Lt. Gov. Chris Cournoyer would attend in place of the Governor and that the Governor would provide her public address system for the event. John reported that the Lt. Gov. would have to leave after taking photos and before the awards are given out. George responded that we would have to revise the script to reflect this. John also added that the order in which the awards would be given out is different from the order in which the nominations had been received. George said that he would change the order of the Award to reflect this. George also added that the Lieutenant Governor should read only the last paragraph of the proclamation. Each awardee, he added, would have 3 to 4 minutes to speak and that people going over time had not been a problem in the past. The event would end with an invitation for the audience to attend a reception in the Secretary of State's office.

Legislative Report (Threase Harms)

Threase Harms joined the call to say that legislative leaders would announce the event tomorrow morning from the floor of the House and the Senate so all legislators would be aware of the event. It's not likely that many of them could attend the whole event but many of them will probably drop by for a few minutes. Teresa added that meetings had been set up for tomorrow afternoon for Teresa, John and Maggie to talk with key legislators about our legislative agenda. She reminded everyone to try to arrange meetings with their own local legislators for tomorrow; letting them know in advance is a good idea. In response to John's question about the difficulty of having our event the first week of session, Threase Harms responded that the first week includes not only the first week of session but also the governor state of the state address, the release of bill drafts and the governors budget, as well as meetings with her cabinet. She recommended that the board consult with the governor's office before deciding when to have the 2026 event.

Board Member Resignation

John informed the board that Deanna Jensen-Valliere had resigned due to conflict with her work schedule. He added that our afternoon meeting time makes it difficult for anyone having a full-time regular job to belong to the board. George replied that this is the first time anyone has objected to our meeting time. John said that perhaps we should table this discussion until another board member has problems with our meeting time.

ISU Event Sponsored

George told the board that the NAHT would be cosponsor of an event in the Iowa State memorial union on January 27 at no cost to us. Two human trafficking survivors, including board member Brittany Sowder, would present at the event. He said he would send the flyer to John and to the board.

Day on the Hill Event

George said that the difficulty communicating with the governor staff this year is uncharacteristic of them and he assumed that it was a staffing issue. John agreed, saying that it's not that their attitude toward trafficking has changed but that they are understaffed. It seems that Eric Baker is doing two jobs, he added. John said that he had filled out the contact form regarding the event in early December but had received a response from the governor's office only in January. John added that he had asked in an email to Eric Baker whether they could suggest a date for the event in 2026 that would work best for the governor, acknowledging that the first week of the legislative session is very busy for everyone. On the other hand, John

acknowledged that the whole month of January from beginning to end is anti-trafficking month and it is best to have the event as early in the month as possible.

Zoom Calendar for Board Meetings

The board agreed that the zoom meeting link should be set up for the next two years to give them a chance to put it on their calendars for on a more permanent basis.

Anti-Trafficking Proclamations

George asked the board to report on proclamation signed in cities around the state. Board members agreed that they would follow up after the meeting so that George could calculate a total number of proclamations throughout the state. Those who had taken photographs of the proclamations promised to forward them to George once they had ascertain the names of all the people in the photos.

Grant Award Available

Jackie informed the board that there was a \$50,000 award available from the US Department of Transportation called the Combating Trafficking in Transportation Impact Award. She said she would send details to John.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.