



MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Note: These draft minutes have not been approved and are not the official record until approved by the Board of Directors.

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Wednesday, March 4, 2026

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PRINCIPAL APPROVED MOTIONS

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

No. - Pg.	Motion
1 - 2	All active Standing Committee members be required to register for attendance at the Winter and Annual Conferences by selecting from a range of available registration options, each offering different levels of access and pricing – including a new option that allows committee meeting-only access at a nominal fee set at 90% off the standard rate – effective immediately for the 2026 Annual Conference in Austin.

ACTION ITEMS

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

No. - Pg.	Responsibility	Summary of Action	Status	Goal Date
1 – 4	Parks	Evaluate the current costs attributed, and paid by Society, to offset expenses associated with conducting Society business at the Winter and Annual Conferences, as listed in ROB 2.104.013.6, and determine if an update is needed.		



MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, March 4, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sarah Maston, President-Elect	Jonathan Smith, Region IX DRC
Ashish Rakheja, Treasurer	Buzz Wright, Region X DRC
Ken Fulk, Vice President	Rob Craddock, Region XI DRC
Trent Hunt, Vice President	Jason Alphonso, Region XII DRC
Andres Sepulveda, Vice President	Ching Loon Ong, Region XIII DRC
Jeff Littleton, Secretary	Mahroo Eftekhari, Region XIV DRC
Charles Bertuch, Region I DRC	Bassel Anbari, RAL DRC
Genevieve Lussier, Region II DRC	Carrie Brown, DAL
Sherry Abbott-Adkins, Region III DRC	Doug Cochrane, DAL
Heather Platt Gulledge, Region IV DRC	Steve Kujak, DAL
Julia Timberman, Region V DRC	Pat Marks, DAL
Maggie Moninski, Region VI DRC	Mike Pouchak, DAL
Scott Peach, Region VII DRC	Heather Schopplein, DAL
Joe Sanders, Region VIII DRC	David Yashar, DAL
	Martin Dieryckx, DAL

GUESTS PRESENT:

Wade Conlan	Krishnan Gowri
Carrie Kelty	Dan Russell
Keith Reihl	Daniel Nall
Colin Laisure-Pool	Filza Walters
Eduardo Maldonado	

STAFF PRESENT:

Candace Denton, Sr. Manager - Board Services	.Rhiannon Masterson, Manager – Chapter Programs
Chandrias Jolly, Manager - Board Services	Ragan McHan, Sr. Manager – Conference Programs
Vanita Gupta, Director – Marketing	Selina Parks, Manager – Conference Services
Lizzy Seymour – Director – Member Services	
Mark Owen, Director - Publications & Education	
Kirstin Pilot, Director - Development	
Stephanie Reiniche, Director - Technology	
Alice Yates, Director - Government Affairs	
Craig Wright, Director of Finance	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am. In Mr. McQuade's absence, Ms. Maston chaired the meeting.

Mr. Littleton shared Mr. McQuade's apologies for missing the meeting; he was in India visiting chapters and would soon attend ACREX.

VALUE STATEMENT

Ms. Maston read the value statement and advised that the full code of ethics, core values and diversity statements were available online.

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call was conducted; members, guests, and staff were in attendance as noted above.

REVIEW OF MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Maston reviewed the meeting agenda. There were no changes or additions.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER REGISTRATION RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Fulk moved and Mr. Marks seconded that

1. All active Standing Committee members be required to register for attendance at the Winter and Annual Conferences by selecting from a range of available registration options, each offering different levels of access and pricing – including a new option that allows committee meeting-only access at a nominal fee set at 90% off the standard rate – effective immediately for the 2026 Annual Conference in Austin.

Mr. Fulk summarized the motion background and the full background was shown on the screen.

He reported that at the Las Vegas meeting, a motion was introduced to allow Standing Committee members, as well as members of TCs and PCs, to register for the meetings-only portion of the Conference at no cost. The BOD did not approve the motion, but several key points emerged during the discussion:

- All attendees should contribute financially to attend the Winter and Annual Conferences.
- A fee should apply specifically to participation in committee meetings.
- Mandatory donations are not feasible.
- A new paid registration option should be developed.

Following the motion's defeat in Vegas, Ms. Maston requested that an informal working group representing the three councils and CECs bring forward a recommendation based on this guidance.

If approved, the new registration option would be implemented for the Austin Annual Conference.

The floor was opened for discussion and a summary of that discussion is below:

Spoke in favor of the motion. Suggested that there wasn't a perfect solution to make everyone happy. Expressed the opinion that the recommendation on the floor was the best option, all things considered.

Spoke in favor of the motion. When considering the total cost to attend a conference this is a small delta. Suggested that it was important to maximize the benefit for members and help to manage costs to attend Society Conferences.

Will hotels be tied to registration again for Austin?

Ms. Seymour confirmed that access to the hotel room block would be tied to registration in Austin.

Spoke in favor of the motion. Suggested that members be notified of the change as soon as possible and that clear communication be sent highlighting the benefits received and the ways that the fee supports the conference.

It was asked what options a member who served on a TC and a Standing Committee would see when registering.

Ms. Maston responded that a member who serves on a TC and a Standing Committee would only see Standing Committee registration options.

Did not speak for or against the motion. Suggested that there was a better solution and recommended that Society consider not having registration rates moving forward for volunteers. The argument that volunteers need to "have skin in the game" is a mistake; volunteers are making a financial contribution by participating and many don't have company support. Should Society be charging its most significant volunteers, especially those early in the career, when Society has significant reserves.

It was asked if TC and PC members would have the option to choose a different registration option and attend the technical conference.

It was confirmed that, yes, if desired TC and PC members can select a registration option that would provide access to the technical conference.

It was suggested that some Standing Committee members do not currently submit their transportation expenses for reimbursement but if the recommendation passes, they may submit a reimbursement request.

Mr. Fulk reported that currently, nearly all standing committee members reporting to Members Council and Pub and Ed Council submit transportation reimbursement requests; for members reporting to Tech Council, only about half submit transportation reimbursement requests.

It was asked if the recommendation would apply to non-voting members.

Mr. Littleton responded that all members on the roster of a standing committee are eligible for transportation reimbursement.

It was suggested that the amount that Society contributes to the expenses of the Winter and Annual Conferences to cover the cost of doing ASHRAE business be reevaluated. Should the amount be updated to reflect today's costs?

Staff will evaluate the current costs attributed, and paid by Society, to offset expenses associated with conducting Society business at the Winter and Annual Conferences, as listed in ROB 2.104.013.6, and determine if an update is needed.

AI - 1

Expressed concern that the total reimbursement cost end up exceeding anticipated savings?

Spoke in favor of the motion. Would the recommendation violate open meeting laws? Are additional steps necessary to protect Society's attrition at conferences?

Mr. Littleton responded that ANSI processes and ensuring that there are no barriers to participation in PCs is always top of mind. Registration for TC and PC members would still be complimentary if this recommendation passes so there should not be an issue. He stated that charging a registration fee to standing committee members did not violate any ANSI guidelines or processes.

Ms. Seymour reported that, unfortunately, members will book at another hotel to avoid registering; she suggested that BOD members recommend that their RVCs not do that. She reported that Society was financially liable for the hotel room block and the hope is that a substantially discounted registration rate, as proposed here, is a good solution. She reported that the only enforcement option staff has is to use the member bio to populate registration options. She reported that verbiage would be added to appointment letters moving forward so that volunteers are aware well in advance that their service on a standing committee requires that they register for the Winter and Annual Conferences.

It was suggested that members may choose to not participate because of the new enforcement process.

Ms. Seymour responded that in Las Vegas, the difference in registration was only about 30 people and the \$95 option was not available. Based off the response in Vegas, she suggested that there would likely not be large numbers of members leaving Society if the recommendation on the floor passed.

Mr. Marks reported that issue was discussed at length by the ad hoc. He reported that the number one complaint from standing committee members was that they were paying for a benefit that their schedule did not easily allow them to take advantage of; specifically, attending the technical program would require many members to stay at the conference additional nights. Addressing this complaint was the primary reason that the ad hoc wanted to offer the \$95 option and allow members to access the online technical program.

Ms. Maston suggested that it would be appropriate for BOD members to share that they pay for conference registration as well. For better or for worse, everyone has a little skin in the game.

Clarification on free access to meetings and ANSI waivers was requested.

Ms. Seymour reported that Society had a waiver request process in place that meets ANSI requirements; the Technology staff team reviewed all requests submitted. In Las Vegas, seven people requested a waiver.

Mr. Littleton stated that the prospect of members not registering for Society Conferences was not a viable option and should not be presented as a viable option to members as all conference attendees need to register. He expressed understanding at the frustration expressed; but stressed that, if approved, this would be the new policy, and BOD members had a duty to present a united front.

Spoke in favor of the motion. Suggested that DRCs support RVCs if there are any issues with their registering. Expressed agreement that all attendees needed to register for safety as well as a multitude of other reasons. Suggested that RVCs be advised before they agree to serve that conference attendance and registration was a requirement of the role.

MOTION 1 PASSED (26:0:1, CNV). Mr. Yashar abstained.

GEOPOLITICAL UNREST

Mr. Littleton reported that he had received questions and subsequently spent quite a bit of time thinking about the implications of hostilities in the Middle East; specifically, what it means for Society and if there was any action that Society needed to take.

He reported that the decision was made to suspend DL travel to the Middle East, effective immediately, through the end of May. The hope was that DLs could present virtually and still support the chapter's programs.

He reported that ACREX was being held in the next week and would be moving forward as planned, with the exception of fewer staff attending to run the booth.

He reported that Chapter Leadership Academy would be moving forward as planned. There were a few cancellations, but the event still had a great turnout with over 60 attendees.

He reported that a large impact on the Austin conference was not expected. On average, there are around 400 international attendees at the Annual Conference with 20 coming from the Middle East.

He reported that, as of now, staff would be attending the Developing Economies Conference as planned.

He reported that the Efficient Building Design Conference would be held in October in Beirut. That conference is run locally and was expecting 40 papers to be presented. Staff would normally attend this event and will be monitoring the situation closely.

He reported that the Energy Research and Development Conference was also run locally and would be in November. Around 64 papers were expected to be presented. Staff would normally attend this event and will be monitoring the situation closely.

He reported that the RAL CRC was being held in Cairo and he was not aware that the region planned to make any changes or adjustments.

He reported that staff at the Global Training Center were safe and that all Dubai courses would be virtual until June.

Mr. Littleton stated that there had been discussion of sending a message similar to those sent after a natural disaster, but the ultimate decision was that there was no way to do that and remain apolitical. The final decision was to not send out a message at this time.

Ms. Eftekhari suggested that the RAL DRC could send a message as opposed to it coming from Society. She reported that Mr. McQuade had plans to visit the Cypress Chapter and asked how she should advise the chapter about proceeding.

Mr. Littleton recommended that President McQuade's visits to Cypress be cancelled.

Mr. Anbari stated that it was an unfortunate situation in the Middle East and that many members were unable to return home, himself included, due to cancelled flights and closed airspace. He expressed agreement with the decisions related to conferences and Presidential visits. He reported that Mr. McQuade was scheduled to visit chapters in RAL later in the year but that it was unclear if airspace would be open at that time.

It was asked if there would be any interruptions to AHR Mexico in Guadalajara.

Mr. Littleton reported that AHR Mexico participation was monitored on an ongoing basis as disruptions have happened rapidly in the past. He shared his opinion that it would be unlikely that AHR Mexico would be cancelled.

He reported that members and staff that are uncomfortable traveling to nearby areas or impacted areas were able to make that decision for themselves. Society was not at a point where all travel outside of North America was being suspended.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was called at 9:02 am.

Open session reconvened at 9:06 am.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ms. Maston reviewed upcoming BOD meetings. The list of meetings was shown on the screen and listed in the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection at 9:06 am.

Jeff Littleton

Jeff H. Littleton, Secretary