

Minutes

Iowa League of Cities Executive Board
Thursday, April 9, 2026

Present: Christina Eicher, President
Steve Richardson, President-elect
Donny Hobbs, Past President
Cindy Loots, Director
Anthony Heddlesten, Director
Dylan Mulfinger, Director
Laurie Goodrich, Director
Cami Rasmussen, Director
Aaron Burnett, Director
Tammi Goerd, Director
John Westergaard, Director
Elaine Otte, Director
LaVern Dirkx, Director
Tom Wieseler, Director
Barb Barrick, Director
Matt Davis, Director

Present on phone: Brad Cavanagh, Immediate Past President
Ashley Vanorny, Past President

Absent: Courtney Clarke, Director

Also Present: Alan Kemp, Executive Director
Mickey Shields, Deputy Director
Shannon Busby, Director of Administrative Services
Alison Deiter, Senior Accountant
Jordan Hagans, Director of Information Technology
Chelsea Hoye, Director of Government Affairs
Grace Hillock, Membership Services Coordinator
Katie Herbert, Data and Policy Research Analyst
Kristine Stone, Ahlers & Cooney, P.C.

1. Call to Order

President Eicher called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

2. Executive Director Performance Evaluation

The board met in executive session for the annual performance evaluation of the executive director.

3. Consent Agenda

It was moved by Director Heddlesten and seconded by Director Wieseler to approve the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the March 5, 2026 meeting of the Executive Board, League Associate Applications, the dues and investment reports. Motion approved.

4. Hannah Brewer, Junior Web Developer

The President introduced Hannah Brewer, the Junior Web Developer, who was hired earlier this year to fill a newly structured position.

5. Financial Report

The senior accountant reviewed the January 2026 financial report, it was moved by President-elect Richardson and seconded by Director Westergaard to approved the report. Motion approved.

6. Approval of League Budget Fiscal Year 2026/2027

The executive director and the senior accountant reviewed the FY 26/27 budget but recommended to defer the budget to the June meeting for approval due pending legislation impacting revenues. It was moved by Director Mulfinger and seconded by Director Goodrich to bring the budget to the June meeting. Motion approved.

It was also moved by Director Heddlesten and seconded by Director Wieseler to approve moving forward with a statement of work for assisting the finance department to determine replacement accounting software. Motion approved.

7. TIAA Retirement Benefits Update

The controller and the senior accountant reviewed the options for changing the League's TIAA retirement benefits for staff. It was moved by Director Rasmussen and seconded by Director Barrick to defer approval to the June board meeting. Motion approved.

8. Approval of Contract for Auditing Service

The controller and senior accountant reviewed the memorandum enclosed and presented the staff and audit committees recommendation for approval by the board. It was moved by Director Wieseler and seconded by Director Goodrich to approve staff recommendation. Motion approved.

9. Utility Service Partner Contract

The executive director presented an updated Sponsorship Agreement between the League and Service Line Warranties of America for consideration and approval. It was moved by Director Rasmussen and seconded by Director Burnett. Motion approved.

10. AI Chat bot - Botco

The executive director presented an agreement for review and approval with Botco for the implementation of an artificial intelligence chat bot on the League's website. It was moved by Dirctor Heddlesten and seconded by Director Dirx. Motion approved. Nays Burnett, Loots and Mulfinger.

11. NLC City Summit Scholarship

The executive director and Past President Vanorny presented a scholarship proposal for cities interested in attending the National League of Cities City Summit. It was moved by Director Mulfinger and seconded by Past President Hobbs to approved the scholarship program. Motin approved.

12. Legislative Update

Members of the legislative team responded to questions regarding legislative issues.

13. Board Member Travel Reimbursement Policy

League staff seek the board's guidance on updates to the Board Member Travel Reimbursement Policy and eligible travel. It was moved by President-elect Richardson and seconded by Director Heddlesten to defer this to the June board meeting. Motion approved.

14. League Committee Reports

A. Consitution and By-Laws Committee

The executive director provided an update on the work of the committee.

B. Site Selection Committee

The deputy director reported on the committee meeting held April 1, 2026. The committee chose to recommend Ames as the host of 2030 and Cedar Rapids as the host of 2031. After board discussion it was moved by President-elect Richardson and seconded by Director Burnett to defer this to the June board meeting and tasked staff to see if Cedar Rapids can host 2030 and set up bench marks for Ames to host 2031 and if not met, the League will bid again for 2031. Motion approved.

C. Nominating Committee

The executive director provided an overview of the Nominating Committee and its process for identifying and selecting candidates for the Executive Board.

D. Awards Committee

The executive director provided an overview of the Awards Committee and the process for nominating individuals for the League Hall of Fame and the Rhonda Wood Smith award.

15. Strategic Plan Update

The executive director provided an update on various initiatives being pursued.

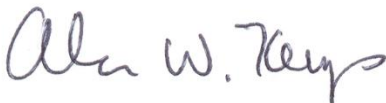
16. Other Business and Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2026.

17. Adjourn

President Eicher adjourned the executive board meeting at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan W. Kemp
Executive Director