

January 17, 2026 Minutes, 9 AM Unanimity Club

Call to Order: Meegan called the meeting to order at 9 am, with 23 voters present.

Secretary's report: Presented by Jeff R. Motion by Montana R to approve the secretary's report and seconded by Jerry L. The motion passed.

President's report: Meegan M discussed that we have 82 groups and over 500 meetings, so there are plenty of opportunities for outreach. Contributions are down, and this is a nationwide phenomenon. NECS relies on donations to support website tech, purchase office merchandise, and keep the central service office open. Please share this with your group because we rely on financial support from the groups.

We have Zoom opportunities, thank you Sunrise group, and we need a commitment from a person who is tech-savvy to volunteer and help us record our CSR quarterly meetings on Zoom. Sunrise Group will get back to us about their future role in supporting our Zoom access.

Treasurer's report: Fred R. presented the financials. Fred explained that inventory categorization issues, where we didn't match our books, caused us to increase expenses by \$4700. Question from the floor: Is the inventory shrinkage (inventory categorization issues) something that comes up each year? Answer: Yes. This was due to software issues of trying to get Square (for point of sale) and QuickBooks to communicate; however, we have gotten rid of Square and are now only using QuickBooks (including for point of sale). It will take a little time to repair all latent Square issues; however, we are on track to improve this issue and make the financials easier to categorize and read.

Comparing our actuals to our budget showed only a \$1,000 difference. This is a demonstration of how seriously we take managing NECS financials. Financially, we are in good shape as indicated by our balance sheet comparisons. Nevertheless, contributions, especially regular contributions by individuals and groups, keep the office running. To this end, we now have a Venmo scan code for contributions, which we will pass out now. You may take one, and please let your groups know that Venmo does not charge fees or take fees from your contributions. We are open to suggestions for increasing contributions.

Motion by Jay W to accept the treasurer's report. Will seconded. The motion passed.

Office/Webmaster report: Barbara reported that 3 people work at the office. She is full-time with two additional part-time employees. Please stop by anytime. We do many, many things in the office. If you want more information about what we do in the office, please, please ask!

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the price of Big Books is going up by \$3, and many other items will increase by about 15%. She thanks everyone who helps and loves the office.

Events: Mary K and Reggie L reported that CSR hosts 4 events per year to cover unexpected costs for NECS. The next event is the Chill/cornbread cook-off, and we do need raffle prizes from the groups. \$5 to taste and judge. Flyers for this and all events are on our NECS website. You can drop raffle items off at the office. The church does not charge us for using their location, but we give them a contribution. Last time, it was \$300.

Outreach: Gary and PJ. No report.

Old business: Tim W, NECS board elections chair, reported that as chair, we have worked to change the bylaws to make elections smoother. Today, we will begin with introductions from each nominee, distribute the ballots, and then count them using ranked-choice voting. Susan

read a letter from Jim E, who had to withdraw his nominations due to health reasons. Therefore, we have only 7 nominations instead of the usual 8. Nominees are Fred R, Gerry L, Jeff Rb, Jim B, Lee J, Marina T (not present due to the flu), and Robbie J. Voting will be ranked-choice. The top three will be full board members. The next three will be alternate board members.

Fred R presented the 2026 budget. Fred explained that prices are increasing, so NECS will have to increase prices. Please keep in mind that you may find lower prices on Amazon; however, Amazon will not answer the phones, coordinate activities, or help our groups. The budget anticipates these price increases, which are beyond our control. Please be aware that we are not making money on items sold in the office, and sometimes, after shipping, we do not break even. Our office rent and supplies costs will also increase. We are forecasting that at the end of the year, our office will be in the positive by \$136. There was a question about the rent expense difference in October. Answer: In October, we also have to pay property tax with our rent. Fred explained that CSRs will take this budget to their groups for their approval. On February 14, we would like to have a special CSR budget meeting to approve the budget. Marty W. motioned to approve this special meeting, and Vandelia G seconded. The motion passed.

The newly elected full board members are: Fred R, Lee J, and Robbie J.

The newly elected alternate board members are: 1st alternate, Marina T; 2nd alternate, Jim B; and 3rd alternate, Jeff Rb.

New business: None