

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	Chair Stephen Jeanetta, Vice Chair Daniel Kahl, Treasurer Lionel “Bo” Beaulieu, Secretary Wilson Majee Executive Director Tammy Baxter, Jerold Braatz, Todd Johnson, Tanner C. Knorr, Neil Linscheid, Jesse Taylor, Kathleen Lopez
	<b>Regrets</b>	Sarah Hultine-Massengale
	<b>Absent</b>	
<b>CDS Members and Guests</b>		
<b>Minutes Recorded By</b>		Secretary Wilson Majee
<b>Meeting Called to Order</b>		By Chair Stephen Jeanetta at 3:05 pm CT- USA

### Opening Items

- A. Meeting Call to Order by Chair Stephen Jeanetta at 3:05 pm CT- USA
- B. Ratify November 11, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
  - Moved by Kahl
  - Seconded by Braatz
  - CARRIED

### Meeting Summary:

The board meeting focused on several key organizational initiatives, including the search for a new Local Development and Society journal editor and discussions about membership growth strategies, financial goals, and website improvements. The group explored various funding opportunities including grant proposals, while also addressing the need to align member benefits with actual offerings and modernize their membership management system. The conversation ended with updates on the treasurer's report, merchandise initiatives, and upcoming conference planning, along with progress reports on various strategic initiatives and fundraising efforts.

### Key Takeaways

- **Journal Editor Search:** A search for a new journal editor is underway, with a February 15 application deadline. The board will explore new revenue streams (e.g., special issue fees) to potentially increase editor compensation. If no strong candidates apply by Feb 15, the committee will begin targeted recruitment.
- **Membership & Website Overhaul:** The membership committee suggested correcting the website specifically related to member benefits, which currently lists inaccurate benefits. The plan includes a phased update and a long-term upgrade to a modern membership/donor management system.
- **Strategic Planning:** The board is developing strategies to meet 3-year goals: \$180k in new revenue, 425 members, and 1200 program participants. Key ideas include targeted outreach to partner organizations and incentivizing member-led recruitment.
- **Financial Stability:** Finances are stable, with higher cash reserves than last year. A small, temporary transfer from the cash management money market account may be needed in January to bridge the gap before the Taylor & Francis payment arrives.

## Reports and Updates

**Chair and Vice Chair:** Stephen and Daniel provided updates on the editor search, noting progress on a job description and plans to form a search committee with key stakeholders. They aim to include current editor Sofia Kotsiri, if she is interested in continuing, and to engage other editorial board members. The job description will be finalized and distributed to editorial boards and other contacts over the break, with applications collected through February and a decision made by early March. Stephen emphasized the importance of using personal networks for recruitment, as the role does not offer high compensation. The conversation ended with a brief mention of a timeline for the search process, though specific details were not provided.

The group also discussed potential strategies for generating additional revenue through the journal, including special issues. Finally, Stephen mentioned the need to review the contract with Taylor and Francis and to follow up on strategic planning goals, with the board considering who might be best suited to lead these efforts.

The group also discussed the following:

- i) **Strategies for Growth and Partnerships:** The group discussed financial and membership goals, including a target of \$180,000 over three years and membership growth to 400 direct members, along with program participation of 1,200 people. They explored strategies for reaching these goals, such as grant applications, logo gear development, and growing sponsor tracks. Bo suggested engaging with organizations like the Aspen Institute for potential partnerships, while Daniel mentioned previous discussions about Tamarack Institute and Community Development Institute as potential collaborators. Jesse offered to share insights from his work with the Tamarack Institute to explore possible benefits.
- ii) **Strategies for Member Engagement:** The group discussed strategies for member engagement and recruitment, with Neil suggesting incentives like free membership for bringing in four new members. Jesse proposed exploring organization membership benefits, while Stephen noted past challenges with relevance and cost for front-line organizations. Todd raised concerns about the ethical implications of virtual collaboration with distant communities, suggesting that strong local relationships are crucial for meaningful impact.
- iii) **Community Development Knowledge Bank Grant:** The board discussed a potential grant proposal for creating a knowledge bank to archive and communicate community development work, with Neil suggesting it would serve the entire field. Stephen emphasized the importance of involving members and aligning initiatives with the organization's mission, noting CDS's unique role as both a professional association and a 501c3 nonprofit. The board agreed to summarize goals and invite member input regarding the goals through the next Vanguard newsletter.

## Treasurer's Report and Financial Planning

Financial Report as of October 31, 2025: Bo presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that while the organization is experiencing high expenses in the latter months of the fiscal year, it has more funds than at the same point last year. He mentioned that they may need to borrow temporarily from their liquid cash management account to cover upcoming bills, but this would be minimal and not affect the endowment or strategic initiatives. Tammy added that the website fee and other unexpected invoices were included in the forecast, and Bo confirmed they would tap into the Fidelity Cash Management account, which is an operating (liquid funds) account set up to generate more interest. The board approved the report with no further questions or comments.

- Motion to Approve the Treasurer Report for period ending October 31, 2025
  - Moved by Majee
  - Seconded by Kahl
  - CARRIED

## Membership Committee

- Enhancing Member Value and Retention: Kathy presented a slide highlighting the discrepancies between the benefits listed on the CDS website and the actual offerings, emphasizing the need to align promises with reality to improve member retention and attraction. She and Tammy discussed reframing recruitment as attraction and alignment of values, while Jesse noted the importance of professional networking for members. The group agreed on the necessity of upgrading the membership and donor management software to modernize member benefits, with funding included in the 2026 budget. Jesse also suggested exploring credentialing or micro-credentials as potential future offerings to enhance member value.
- Website Updates and Enhancement Plans- Kathy and Tammy discussed short, medium, and long-term changes to the website, including removing related products, updating committee descriptions, and improving the user experience for logged-in members. They also explored ideas for member-specific benefits and networking features. The group considered using Catch A Fire, a free platform for finding volunteers, to help with website updates. Long-term plans include upgrading to a more robust membership and donor management system, allowing for better member role and focus area tracking.
- Membership Engagement and Community Building: The group discussed strategies for membership development and engagement, with a focus on improving online tools while simultaneously building relationships. Todd suggested exploring ways to attract young people to conferences through sponsorships and collaborations with youth development programs, while Neil emphasized the potential for connecting with other professional associations and community health workers. The discussion highlighted the importance of leveraging members' existing connections to broader communities and organizations.

## ISCC Strategic Planning

Kathy reported on the strategic plan for the ISCC, which board members are reviewing ahead of a vote next month. She also mentioned Kevin's upcoming departure from the organization and the need to identify a new contact person for the international chapter.

## Programs Committee Updates:

Neil provided an update on the Programs Committee's activities, including conference planning and the development of mobile workshops. Neil reported that the committee was actively seeking hosts for 2027 and 2028. For the 2026 proposal/abstract deadline is next week; early submissions are being reviewed efficiently with the new scoring system. The board also discussed upcoming conference planning, including a meeting scheduled for January 7th to discuss sponsorships with Savannah representatives.

- Tanner discussed upcoming webinars and a series of conversations based on the principles for good practice, as well as plans for an open forum to address faculty and student concerns. Webinars and Educational Training Subcommittee: A new series will focus on the "Principles for Good Practice."

The conversation ended with a brief discussion about the potential for generating funding through the transition work being done with CTRU. A meeting is scheduled to finalize the program transition and discuss potential revenue generation.

## Executive Director Updates

CDS Merchandise and Fundraising Updates: The board approved Tammy's proposal to create CDS merchandise through a print-on-demand platform, with products priced to generate at least \$15-30 in revenue after printing costs. Tammy reported that the end-of-year fundraising campaign was underway, with the first donation of \$100 received for the Strategic Initiatives Fund, and noted that Giving Tuesday donations exceeded last year's. Board members were encouraged to contribute or secure donations to achieve 100% board participation, a key metric for grant applications.

## End of Year Closed Session (Executive Director Recused)

Fiscal Year (FY) CDS 2026 Budget (Discussion & Voting Item)

- Motion to Approve the Fiscal Year CDS 2026 Budget as presented
  - Moved by Linscheid
  - Seconded by Braatz
  - CARRIED

## Selected Key Next Steps

- **Stephen Jeanetta & Daniel Kahl:** Finalize journal editor job description and launch the search committee.
- **Tammy:**
  - Launch the CDS swag shop.
  - Update website content (committee descriptions, benefits language).
  - Continue the year-end fundraising campaign.
- **Kathy:** Compile board feedback on membership benefits for the website update.
- **Jesse Taylor:** Provide a Tamarack Institute contact to initiate a partnership conversation.
- **Board Members:** Review the ISCC strategic plan for a vote at the next meeting.

## Closing and Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 4:37 pm CT

- Moved by Kahl
- Seconded by Johnson
- CARRIED