



# National Coalition for Literacy

## Board Meeting

September 17, 2025  
1:00-5:00 PM EST

### Attendees:

Board Members: Cynthia Bell, Todd Evans (Treasurer), Chrissie Klinger, Kevin Maher (Secretary), Tom Nash, Eric Nesheim (President), Meghan McBride, Gwenn Weaver

Others: John Chick (AAACE-CABEL), Jake Hofstetter (MPI), Lauren Osowski – Treasurer (Proliteracy), Laura Weisel

Absent: Jody Angelone, Rachel DeVaughan, Jamie Harris (Vice President), Christy Rhodes

Ex officio: Jeff Fantine (*executive director*)

Note-taker: Michele Diecuch

## MINUTES

### Business Meeting 1-2:00 p.m.

#### 1. Meeting Business

Jeff invited incoming board members to the meeting and did a round of introductions. Todd resigned from the board effective this meeting. Lauren Osowski will take Todd's place, including as treasurer. Christie Rhodes resigned and will be replaced by John Chick. Both Lauren and John need to be voted in as replacements during this board meeting.

Jake Hofstetter, Tony Peyton, Tom Nash, and Meghan McBride will be on the slate for a full vote during the Members' meeting.

- Approval of the minutes of the June 13 meeting  
Three edits to minutes: 1) Note about inserting name, which is Rep. Houchin 2) FY26 appropriations – change to *Senate* appropriations bill, 3) Date listed as 11/20 strategic plan meeting should be 8/20. With those changes, a motion was made by Kevin to approve the minutes; seconded by Gwenn; approved unanimously with the aforementioned edits.

#### 2. Executive Director Report

- AEFL Week  
This week is AEFL week. Jeff joined COABE's panel about the value of adult education and how it affects different stakeholder groups. The panel was followed by a hill event, where several people met with legislative staff. Some spoke to legislators in their respective states. Jeff targeted Republicans who are on the House appropriations committee. There has been a lot of activity around AEFL week, especially with COABE. Efforts have been made to get the AEFL week resolution acknowledged. Jeff hasn't received notification of the vote yet, but got word that it should happen on Thursday. Jeff expects to be able to mention it at the Members' meeting. Sponsors this year are senators Collins and Reed and representatives McBath and Houchin.  
Proclamations have been happening all week for state and local governments in support of adult education. NCL's social media presence has picked up

considerably. Jeff had asked members to submit articles on adult education topics for a media blitz, and he received several submissions. These articles may be picked up by various media outlets next week. They can be used for ongoing posts also. Links to the articles are located on the AEFL week NCL website page.

The Senate appropriations committee decided not to support the President's proposed FY26 budget which defunds adult education. The House has come back with its version with zero in funding for adult ed. Jeff mentioned that it is likely there will be a CR, although unclear whether it will be a short- or long-term CR.

Continuing to move forward with the strategic plan, which will be part of the conversation today.

ALL IN – mentioned in August meeting that the Barbara Bush Foundation has decided to return to their original mission which is to be a grant-making body for adult education programs. All other BBF programs will be eliminated, including ALL IN. There were mixed responses to this news.

All ALL IN members are also members of NCL. There has been some confusion based on overlap of work done by BBF and NCL. Dollar General has decided not to fund ALL IN if it exists in its current form, although they would like the work of ALL IN to continue. NCL is the most logical place for the initiatives to land based on its scope and mission.

BBF and DG approached Jeff and Eric to talk about NCL being the best landing place for ALL IN initiatives. Coordinating Council (CoCo) members were a bit surprised by this - adult ed organizations are on different pages about where ALL IN should land and/or if it should be eliminated. Issues that arose during the conversation were those such as infrastructure and staffing. Making the ALL IN work continue with much less money is a challenge. Question arose about whether there was a discussion about adjusting the outcomes of the initiative based on a funding reduction. It is likely that would be the case. ALL IN started a Google doc of their priorities. As part of the discussions, NCL mentioned that they are in the midst of a strategic planning process. CoCo members are telling ALL IN that advocacy, public awareness, and capacity building are the priority areas. Todd raised that capacity building is not in line with what NCL currently does. It is an area that potentially comes with money. This topic could be part of the strategic planning discussion. Related to timing, NCL's understanding is that decisions about ALL IN need to be made by the end of October. Likely there will need to be a special NCL board meeting for further discussion.

- **Board Members / Officers**

A motion was made by Eric to allow John Chick (AAACE) to fill Christie Rhodes' seat (ends Sept. 2026) and Lauren Osowski to fill Todd's seat (also ends Sept. 2026); Todd seconded; approved unanimously. John and Lauren can now officially vote on motions going forward. Eric mentioned that an orientation is being planned. At the beginning of the Members' meeting, Eric will present the slate for a vote by the full membership.

Jeff reached out to the four current board officers. Eric has agreed to be president, Jamie will be vice, Lauren will be treasurer, and Kevin will be secretary. Meghan has indicated interest in serving as an officer on the board. There was conversation about whether Jamie is interested in being president. Suggestion was made to talk with Jamie before making any changes. Jeff tabled the vote until after he speaks to Jamie. A vote can be done virtually. Officers are one-year appointments.

### **3. Finance and Development Report**

- **Review Monthly Financial Statements**  
Jeff referenced the monthly reports that were sent to everyone. There aren't any significant changes since last month. There have been multiple problems with NCL mail, so the \$35,000 Ingram-White Castle check is still missing. The foundation will issue another check. Jeff has made the decision to close the post office box (will take the address off NCL's website). Jeff's address will be used as NCL's address for the time being. Budget note: \$35,000 of the \$37,000 deficit does not exist due to the pending arrival of the check.

#### **4. Membership Committee Report**

- 2025 Membership Update  
No update in this area.

#### **5. Communications Committee Report**

- Communications Committee  
Jeff and Kevin have continued conversations. Some NCL members are interested in helping with social media. Jeff has someone at Ohio State that is helping to design an NCL website, which will be launched soon.

#### **6. Other Business**

- None

#### **7. Upcoming Board and Member Meeting Dates**

- October 8 (10-11:30 a.m. EST)
- November 12 (10-11:30 a.m. EST)
- December 10 (10-11:30 a.m. EST)

#### **8. Coming events**

- AAACE Conference – October 6-10, Cincinnati, OH
- MAEA Conference – October 16-17, Bangor, ME
- National Center for Families Learning Conference – November 2-5, 2025  
Charlotte, NC