



**SSCVA Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
7770 Corinne Dr. Hammond, IN  
October 16, 2025**

1. WELCOME

a. Roll Call

- i. In attendance: ESPINO, GRISOLIA, HOLMES, MALONEY, PATENA, QUNELL, ROBERTS, SPENCER, VELLIGAN, WHITE, WIESER
- ii. Absent: BLACKWELL, BONDS, BRASHIER, CASH, EVANS, KLIDERIS, SCHUFFERT, SEGARRA
- iii. Staff in attendance: PHIL TAILLON, STEPHANIE SMITH, HEATHER BECERRA, KRISTIN TAYLOR, NIKKI LOPEZ, NICOLE WOLVERTON

b. Pledge of Allegiance

2. REPORTS

a. CEO Report

- i. Presenting CVA budget submission to the Lake County Council on Nov 18.
- ii. Positive news on the innkeeper's tax is shared, noting a rollercoaster year but overall good performance, especially with tourism in Northwest Indiana.
- iii. Meeting with House Republicans and Senate Democrats, emphasizing the organization's non-political stance and the positive feedback received.
- iv. The largest volleyball tournament in the Midwest is starting at the Sportsplex, with 32 teams participating, and notes the positive impact of tourism on local hotels.
- v. Successful Rose and Rise awards at Horseshoe Casino
- vi. Updates on the CDME course starting this Saturday and the Advocacy Summit in Sacramento, California, expressing the importance of advocacy for tourism.
- vii. The Partnership Summit scheduled for November 13 is mentioned, with a suggestion to split sessions for hoteliers and other attractions for better networking.

- viii. Encouraged board members to attend various events to better understand the staff's achievements and the impact of tourism.
    - ix. Mark your calendar for South Shore in the City on Dec 6.
  - b. CFO Report
    - i. Innkeepers
      - 1. The CFO reported a \$34,000 increase in September collections and a \$49,000 deficit year-to-date.
      - 2. Reports on September collections, noting a significant increase from the previous year and a hopeful outlook for the remaining summer months.
    - ii. Financial Update
      - 1. Discussed the importance of the upcoming budget submission to the Lake County Council, and noted she will provide a report.
      - 2. Casino revenue slightly down from the previous year.
      - 3. Appropriation report, noting 17% of remaining appropriations for the end of the year.
  - c. Approval of Claims #2895-2897, 30877-31962 in the amount of \$1,387,283.54.
    - i. Motion made by **HOLMES** to approve claims, seconded by **ESPINO**. Approved unanimously.
  - d. Staff Reports – In BOD packet
    - i. COO provided updates on ongoing repairs, including the boiler and AV upgrade, and mentions the early start of Christmas decorations.
  - e. Committee Reports
- 3. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. None
- 4. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes September 18, 2025
    - i. Motion made by **VELLIGAN** to approve minutes, seconded by **ESPINO**. Approved unanimously
  - b. 2026 Budget Resolution
    - i. Motion made by **MALONEY** to approve 2026 budget resolution, seconded by **PATENA**. Approved unanimously.
  - c. Salary Resolution No. 2025-10-16 (2)
    - i. Motion made by **PATENA** to approve salary resolution, seconded by **VELLIGAN**. Approved unanimously.
- 5. PRESENTATION
  - a. None
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Two (2) minutes maximum per person or five (5) minutes for a group spokesperson. Please keep your comments civil and constructive to policy issues. The Chair, at his/her sole discretion, may recognize individuals wishing to speak on different topics.
  - b. Next Regular Meeting - November 20, 2025, at 12:00 pm at the Indiana Welcome Center.
7. ADJOURNMENT
- a. Motion made by **VELLIGAN** to adjourn, seconded by **GRISOLIA**.