



**SSCVA Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
7770 Corinne Dr. Hammond, IN  
February 20, 2025 at 12:00 PM**

1. WELCOME

a. Roll Call

**In attendance:** Bonds, Brashier, Cash, Espino, Evans, Grisolia, Holmes, Maloney, Patena, Qunell, Roberts, Schuffert, Segarra, Spencer, Velligan, White

**Absent:** Bushemi, Klideris, Lyles

**SSCVA staff in attendance:** Stephanie Smith, Heather Becerra, Nicole Wolverton, Nikki Lopez, Kristin Taylor

b. Pledge of Allegiance

2. REPORTS

a. CEO Report

- i. Gave thanks to the board members that attended the legislative event in Indianapolis, noting the positive feedback and high occupancy rate in Indiana.
- ii. Shared the latest tourism report, highlighting \$1.3 billion in visitor spending, an increase of \$100 million from the previous year.
- iii. Discussed upcoming speaking engagements to promote the tourism industry and address misinformation about the convention center process.
- iv. Inaugural amateur pickleball tournament will be held in Hammond on Feb. 21 with 350 participants from 10 states, including a couple from Paris, France.
- v. Congratulated Representative Earl Harris on passing a bill to create a commission for bringing a pro sports team to Northwest Indiana.

b. CFO Report

i. Innkeepers

1. Reports a \$42,000 decline in January collections compared to the previous year, noting a break in the 11-month positive streak.

2. Explains that January collections are from November hotel collections, indicating a two-month delay.
    3. Encouraged board members to check out the floor updates to the exhibit hall and stairway.
  - ii. Financial Update
  - c. Approval of Claims #2631-2632, 2986-31494 in the amount of \$1,037,010.09
    - i. Motion made by Maloney to approve claims, seconded by Velligan.  
Approved unanimously 16-0
  - d. Staff Reports
    - i. In board packet
3. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. None
4. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2025
    - i. Motion made by Patena to approve minutes, seconded by Schuffert.  
Approved unanimously 16-0.
  - b. Approval of Bose Public Affairs Group Contract
    - i. Motion made by Velligan to approve Bose Contract, seconded by Schuffert. Approved unanimously 16-0.
  - c. Meeting Max Room Night Bucket Purchase- 5,000 rooms for \$12,766
    - i. Motion made by Cash to approve Meeting Max room nights, seconded by Velligan. Approved unanimously 16-0.
5. 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. New Regular Meeting- Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025
6. ADJOURNMENT
  - a. Motion made by Spencer to adjourn, seconded by Grisolia.