



## **CRAEA Board of Directors Annual Organizational Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 3, 2025 - New Board**

### **Call to Order**

Chief Administrator Stan Rheingans called the Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors annual organizational meeting of the new board to order at 5:46 p.m. Board members in attendance were: Dennis Craun, David Hill, Nicole Lovik-Blaser via Zoom, Jenn Peter, Dr. Cynthia Phillips, Dr. Tony Reid, Dr. Debra Rich, Dr. Theron Schutte, via Zoom, and Dr. Mary Stevens.

Also present were: Assistant Chief Administrator/Director of HR Karl Kurt via Zoom, CFO Jennifer Coombes, Board Secretary Lori Thomas, Executive Director Annette Hyde, Executive Director Tesha Moser-Zimmerman, and Director Beth Strike. Visitors included Pam Morrissey and Sarah Nelson.

### **Results of the Board Election - Administer Oath of Office to the Newly Elected Board**

Board Secretary Lori Thomas shared the results of the board election and administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected board members. The following board members were elected by their respective director districts and the at-large board members were elected by the district superintendents within Central Rivers AEA.

- Director District 1 - Nicole Lovik-Blaser, Term 2025-27
- Director District 2 - Dr. Debra Rich, Term 2025-29
- Director District 3 - Dr. Mary Stevens, Term 2025-27
- Director District 4 - Dr. Tony Reid, Term 2025-29
- Director District 5 - Dennis Craun, Jr, Term 2025-27
- At-Large - David Hill, Term 2025-27
- At-Large - Jenn Peter, Term 2025-27
- At-Large - Dr. Cynthia Phillips, Term 2025-29
- At-Large - Dr. Theron Schutte, Term 2025-29

### **Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Mary Stevens moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Dr. Debra Rich. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Board Introductions**

Board members and agency leadership introduced themselves and briefly shared their backgrounds with one another.

### **Election of Board President - Administer Oath of Office**

Chief Administrator Stan Rheingans opened the floor for nominations for Board President. Dr. Tony Reid nominated Dr. Debra Rich, and with no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Dr. Reid's motion to elect Dr. Rich was seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. A roll-call vote was conducted, resulting in eight ayes, no nays, and one abstention by Dr. Rich. Board Secretary Lori Thomas administered the Oath of Office and Dr. Rich then assumed the chair.

### **Election of Board Vice-President - Administer Oath of Office**

Board President Dr. Debra Rich opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice-President. Dr. Mary Stevens nominated Dr. Tony Reid, who declined the nomination. Dr. Cynthia Phillips nominated Dr. Stevens, and with no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Dr. Phillips' motion to elect Dr. Stevens was seconded by Dr. Reid. A roll-call vote was conducted, resulting in eight ayes, no nays, and one abstention by Dr. Stevens. Board Secretary Lori Thomas administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Stevens.

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**Appoint Board Secretary and Board Treasurer – Administer Oath of Office**

Nicole Lovik-Blaser moved to reappoint Lori Thomas as Board Secretary and Jennifer Coombes as Board Treasurer for 2026, seconded by Dennis Craun. The motion carried unanimously. Board President Dr. Debra Rich administered the Oath of Office to both appointees.

**Set Board Meeting Dates and Times for 2026**

Dr. Mary Stevens moved to set the first Wednesday of the month for the board to meet in 2026 and continue with the current meeting start time of 5:00 p.m., seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser. The motion passed unanimously.

**Name Depository Banks and Establish Limits for 2026**

Dr. Tony Reid moved to approve Farmers State Bank as a depository bank with a limit not to exceed \$25,000,000 (twenty-five million); Lincoln Savings Bank as a depository bank with a limit not to exceed \$15,000,000 (fifteen million); and ISJIT as a depository bank with a limit not to exceed \$15,000,000 (fifteen million) for 2026, seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. The motion passed unanimously.

**Establish Legal Counsel for 2026**

David Hill moved to appoint both Ahlers & Cooney and Swisher & Cohrt to continue to serve as Legal Counsel for 2026, seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser. The motion passed unanimously.

**Windows Device Management**

Dennis Craun moved to approve the purchase of 550 Managed Service Provider licenses from N-Able in the amount of \$10,285.00, seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. The motion passed unanimously.

**Reports to/from Board:**

**Chief Administrator Stan Rheingans:** Stan shared that we will be conducting a virtual board orientation this month for the new board members.

**Executive Director of SpEd Annette Hyde:** Annette gave a report on PD learning for AEA staff.

**Executive Director of Ed Services Tesha Moser-Zimmerman:** Tesha reported on AI support.

**Board President Dr. Debra Rich:** Deb reported that she attended the IAAEA Board Meeting in November and shared information regarding the AEA Purchasing rebates distributed to school districts. She also thanked agency directors for promoting CRAEA services on social media.

**Adjournment**

Board President Dr. Debra Rich declared the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Cynthia Phillips, and seconded by Dennis Craun.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Executive Assistant/Board Secretary



Dr. Debra Rich, Board President