



Suzuki Association of the Americas

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 9:00am-11:30am PT
and 1:00pm to 4:30pm

Location: San Francisco, CA

Board Members		Staff	Guests
Present: Lynne Oliverius, Chair Ingrid Tung, Chair Elect Ching-Yi Lin, Secretary Araceli Hackbarth Edward Kreitman April Losey Leslie Mizrahi Nancy Modell Joseph Rogot (by phone) Bruce Walker Angelica Cortez, <i>Ex officio</i>	Absent: Kirk Cullimore, Treasurer Geoffrey Hill	Angelica Cortez, Executive Director	Shannon Petrello and Katy Giron, guest clinicians

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS TAKEN
1	Call to Order & Attendance		Meeting called to order at 9:00 am PT by Lynne Oliverius, Chair
2	Approval of Agenda		Bruce Walker moved to approve the agenda. Ching-Yi Lin seconded. Agenda Approved.
3	The Board Moves Method: Fundraising Training for SAA	The Board Moves Approach: your role as a door-opener. Developing your personal story: The W.H.Y. framework and activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When did you become aware of the organization? ● How did it make you feel? ● Your commitment to SAA Mapping your network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choosing your people: how much might they care about SAA, how easily can you reach them, and their ability to give meaningfully 	

		<p>The Board was given the tools to tell our stories, identify the right people in our network, connect with them, and introduce them to the SAA staff.</p> <p>Becoming a connector: Board members are assigned to reach out to a potential donor by March 25th.</p>	
4	Finance Committee Report (Joseph Rogot) continued	<p>Investment recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Simplify the portfolio ● Invest in more funds, less in bonds ● Invest more of the cash to earn additional revenue ● Consider an outside advisor <p>Annual revenues and expenses recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthen fundraising efforts ● Investments to support specific strategic projects ● Discussion of consolidation of individual named funds 	
5	Committee Chair Update	<p>Action items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create an organizational calendar outlining what each committee is tasked with ● Coordinate efforts to move the Strategic Plan forward ● Make a task list so the Board can retain institutional knowledge and pass down to future Board members 	
6	Charter review and approval	<p>The Governance Committee drafted a proposed Board Charter. A video guide was provided by Ingrid Tung to the Board by email on Feb. 23 along with a draft of the proposed Board Charter with collaborative governance & execution framework.</p>	<p>Ingrid Tung moves to adopt the proposed Board Charter. Bruce Walker seconded. Motion approved.</p>

7	Continuation of Country Committee Report (Araceli Hackbarth)	<p>Suggestions of actions to be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize events outside of the U.S. • Easier access to teaching materials, in connection with Alfred • Unification of ECC and <i>Filosofia</i> courses <p>Review of courses and pedagogical activities currently taking place in Latin America (e.g., Collective Teaching in Brazil and Diplomado/Mentoring in Mexico)</p>	
8	Ideation & Conversations	<p>Pilot business development project discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business development course offered by Eric Branner to SAA Institutes in support of our teachers • Finance education: pilot retirement planning tool to assist teachers <p>Suggestions for teacher development committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas to update the ECC and SPA course videos. Create better ways to find the videos and improve on the organization of the videos for these two courses, update materials. • Provide training for teaching group classes. <p>How do we support the growth of the instruments that are lesser known in the SAA world:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More community building is needed (booth at conferences, individual conversations, etc.) • Strengthen our relationship with Steinway piano • Small gatherings for these groups 	

		<p>Brand Awareness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership outreach, different types of membership categories • Establish at least 2 connections with universities or non-profits • Launch a unified brand activity and visual identity 	
9	Board Assessment Tool presented by Edward Kreitman	<p>Board self-assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the Board’s effectiveness in carrying out its roles and responsibilities • Assess the quality of governance practices, including meeting effectiveness, decision-making, and oversight • Opportunities to strengthening board • Recommend improvements to governance processes, Board development, execution of responsibilities <p>Board assessment tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with American Society of Associations Executives to ensure readiness for meaningful participation • Timeline: Board member will take the assessment in the next month, and once the survey closes, ASAE will compile the results and deliver the Assessment Benchmarking Report within five days 	
10	Meeting adjourned		Meeting adjourned at 4:30PM PT.