



Suzuki Association of the Americas

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 12pm-5pm PT

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 (by phone) Joseph Rogot (by phone) Bruce Walker Angelica Cortez, <i>Ex officio</i>	Absent: Kirk Cullimore, Treasurer Geoffrey Hill	Angelica Cortez, Executive Director	

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS TAKEN
1	Call to Order & Attendance		Meeting called to order at 12:02 pm PT by Lynne Oliverius, Chair
2	Approval of Agenda		Bruce Walker moved to approve the agenda. Araceli Hackbarth seconded. Agenda Approved.
3	Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2026		Minutes Approve by email on January 20, 2026
4	Executive Director Report/ISA Report (Angelica Cortez)	Conference run-down: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking schedule and Awards • Finalizing the speaker scripts • Profit and loss: membership updates, automatic membership renewals, interest in advertising in the years that we host conferences • Future conference: Chicago in 2027, Virginia in 2028, and branding of Leadership Retreat in the future. Ways to bolster local chapters and events going forward Membership Fees & Categories Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion re: Membership fees and structure 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher trainer and ECC teacher trainer dues. Possible different fees restructure for in-person and online teaching • Discussion on benefits for our memberships: better access for Latin America and Canada, help to increase ECC course offerings, university courses, special instrument sales, sponsoring travel for Suzuki trainers, etc. • What benefits could enhance our Suzuki parent experience: Parents as Partners, trial memberships, weekly newsletters with short videos, free shipping for Suzuki Method books, etc. 	
5	Nominating Committee Report (Ingrid Tung)	<p>Refreshing the Honorary Board roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nominating Committee will send out letters in March to invite performing artists to get involved. • We will also reengage with current HB members. <p>Board metrics are discussed and what skills and characteristics we need to encourage people to serve on the Board. Emphasis on technology, fundraising abilities, diversity, representatives from the Americas, etc.</p>	
6	Country Committee Report (Araceli Hackbarth)	<p>Update on SAA Chapter and Country Affiliates. Goals of a Country Affiliate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect • Educate • Provide financial support • Organization of events • Respect <p>Discussion of benefits to the SAA and benefits for Country Affiliates. Fee structures were also mapped out.</p>	

		<p>Questions raised by the countries of Latin America:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distinct identity (Organization vs Chapter) ● Brand Protection & Verification ● Financial Sustainability & SAA Contributions ● Empowerment and decision making ● How the SAA can work with countries without formal organization going forward <p>Topics to implement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize events outside the US 2. Acquisition of books <p>(reports to continue day 2)</p>	
7	Finance Committee Report (Joseph Rogot)	<p>Suggestion from the Finance Committee to see how we can better invest the SAA's current assets. Discussion with the Board on management of future investments.</p> <p>American Society of Association Executive risk management guidelines including profile management: the finance committee will review these numbers once a month and report to the Board. Review bylaws to see how we can make changes and decisions.</p>	
8	Meeting adjourned		Meeting adjourned at 4:45PM

Ching-Yi Lin, Secretary

Minutes Approved on March 24, 2026